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HC issues notice to police on Zubair's plea challenging his remand
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DRDO successfully carries out maiden test flight of new UAV
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Stop interfering in Afghanistan, says Taliban supreme leader
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Deepti's all-round show helps India take 1-0 lead in ODI series
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NEARBY

Pourakarmikas to continue strike

BENGALURU

Pourakarmikas across the State, who started an indefinite strike on Friday, decided to continue their strike on Saturday too, despite Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's assurance that all pourakarmikas on direct payment system would be taken on permanent rolls.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Govt. schools to have vans to ferry students

BENGALURU

The State government has decided to provide free pick-up and drop facility for children studying in government and government-aided schools across Karnataka.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 5

Prices of curd, buttermilk, lassi, and paneer to rise

BENGALURU

Even though the State government has refused to hike the cost of Nandini milk and milk products marketed by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), the cost of curd, lassi, buttermilk, and paneer is set to increase, following the GST Council's decision to remove exemption provided to these products.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 8

PROPERTYPLUS ▸ PAGE 7

Uddhav questions rationale for BJP's alliance with Sena faction

'Why didn't BJP accept a similar proposal in 2019?'

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A day after Shiv Sena rebel Eknath Shinde was sworn in as Maharashtra's Chief Minister, his predecessor and party president Uddhav Thackeray said this was the exact proposal that his party and the BJP then president Amit Shah had agreed upon in 2019.

Countering the BJP's claim that it elevated a Sena worker to the top post, Mr. Thackeray said Mr. Shinde was not Sena's Chief Minister. "What has happened yesterday was our exact proposal in 2019 to Amit Shah and the BJP. Why didn't the BJP honour the agreement then? And why have they done this now? Had the BJP respected our agreement, the experiment of Maha Vikas Aghadi would never have happened," said Mr. Thackeray at a press conference. He did not take any questions.

Hitting back: Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray arriving for a press meet at Shiv Sena Bhavan in Mumbai on Friday. • PTI

He later removed Mr. Shinde from the post of 'Shiv Sena leader'. In a letter to Mr. Shinde, Mr. Thackeray accused him of "indulging in anti-party activities".

Mr. Shinde was sworn in as the Chief Minister and BJP leader and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took oath as Deputy Chief Minister, amid high drama on Thursday. Mr. Thackeray quit on June 29, after the Supreme Court refused to stay a floor test called by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12
RELATED REPORTS ▸ PAGE 12

Floor test on Monday

The day-old Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra will face the floor test on July 4, an official said. BJP MLA Rahul Narvekar filed the nomination on Friday for the post of Assembly Speaker, the official said.

Deficit rainfall in first month of monsoon

Coastal and Malnad too see similar trend, South Interior Karnataka sees large excess

K.C. DEEPIKA
BENGALURU

A month into the southwest monsoon season, Karnataka on the whole recorded deficit rainfall. Against the normal 208 mm, the State received only 167 mm, resulting in a 20% deficit.

According to the data shared by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), within the State, two regions, which usually receive heavy rainfall, have recorded lesser than normal rainfall. While Coastal Karnataka had a 33% deficit, receiving only 585 mm against the normal 873 mm, the Malnad region too saw a 46% departure from normal – an actual rainfall of 208 mm against the normal 384 mm.

Kodagu district in the Malnad region had the highest deficiency at -53%. Only Hassan in Malnad region, with an -8% deficit, recorded normal rainfall in both regions. All other districts in both Malnad and Coastal Karnataka recorded deficit rainfall.

South Interior Karnataka, on the other hand, had 'large excess rainfall' (over 60% and above) in the first month of the season. The region had 85% departure from normal. Bengaluru Rural, with 186%, was the highest departure from normal across the state, receiving 198 mm actual rainfall against 69 mm normal.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 6

Nupur should have apologised, says SC

Court pulls up ex-BJP spokesperson

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday came down heavily on former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, who allegedly made remarks against Prophet Muhammed in a televised debate, saying she was single-handedly responsible for the ensuing protests and should have apologised to the nation. Her remarks led to a spate of violence, unrest, demolitions and arrests across several States.

"The way she has ignited emotions across the country... This lady is single handedly responsible for what is happening in the country," Justice Surya Kant, leading a Vacation Bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala, observed orally.

Ms. Sharma had approached the Supreme Court to club the multiple First Information Reports (FIRs) registered across the country. The court refused to entertain her plea, saying that the "conscience of the court is not satisfied", following which Ms. Sharma withdrew her petition. The court said Ms. Sharma's comments were "disturbing". "What is her business to make these remarks?" the Bench asked her lawyer, advocate Maninder Singh. When Mr. Singh said his client had apologised, the court lashed out, saying she should have gone back on air and apologised to the nation. "She was too late to withdraw... and that too, she withdrew her comments conditionally, saying 'if sentiments hurt'," the court said.

The court said these statements were intended to provoke.

CONGRESS REACTION ▸ PAGE 12

The top court held Nupur Sharma responsible for the violence in the country.

Withdraw SC remarks: letter

A letter petition was filed on Friday before Chief Justice N. V. Ramana seeking withdrawal of the adverse remarks made by the Supreme Court Bench against Nupur Sharma. PTI

GST revenues surpass ₹1.44 lakh crore

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India recorded its second highest monthly gross GST revenues in June at ₹1,44,616 crore, 56% more than a year earlier when the second COVID wave had hit economic activity. Revenues from import of goods rose 55%, while domestic transactions and import of services were 56% higher in the month.

Gross GST Compensation Cess collections hit ₹11,018 crore, including ₹1,197 crore on import of goods, the highest since the introduction of GST five years ago. This is the fourth successive month since March that monthly GST revenues have crossed the ₹1.4 lakh crore mark.

"The average monthly gross GST collection for the first quarter of 2022-23 was ₹1.51 lakh crore against the average monthly collection of ₹1.1 lakh crore in the same period last year. Coupled with economic recovery, anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers, contributed to the enhanced GST," the Finance Ministry said. ICRA said it expects the monthly average GST collections in 2022-23 to be about June's revenue level, which would imply a 'substantive upside of about ₹1.2 lakh crore' for the Government of India.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

• GETTY IMAGES

The serial record-breaker with a monk's calmness

Avinash Sable has experienced the highs and braved the lows, transforming into a runner with a single-minded focus on performance. He may not be the poster boy of Indian athletics yet, but he is one of the country's few genuine medal prospects on the world stage

UTHRA GANESAN

For someone who has made breaking records seem like an everyday affair, it is difficult to believe Avinash Sable once had doubts about whether he would ever be competitive within the country – at that point, the world stage was a dream too far.

It's a good thing he was talked out of his doubts in July 2017. For, over the next year, the 3000m steeplechaser experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, becoming a man focused on performances and records to the point of obsession, with all the calmness of a monk. This has made him one of the few Indian track athletes genuinely capable of a world-level medal.

"We began his steeplechase training in March 2017," reveals Amrish Kumar Adhana, the Services coach who introduced Sable to the sport and guided him until the Tokyo Olympics.

"In July at the inter-State championships in Guntur, he was prepared well enough to win gold but he finished fourth with a timing of over nine minutes, falling at the hurdles. He was 23, just starting out and frankly, just a kid. And like kids who become wary after getting hurt, he was upset on return, wasn't sure he could continue and wanted to quit. 'Sir, *ye hota nahi lag raha mujhse* [I don't think I can do it],' were his words.

"But we convinced him to continue. '*Ye hi hoga aur tujhse hi hoga* [It will happen and you will make it happen],' I said and promised him he would make a new meet record at the Chennai Open Nationals that year if he followed my instructions. It was all about getting the negativity out of him, in mind and in training," says Adhana.

From there to the Diamond League, the unsure kid has come a long way in establishing his legend in the event that has become synonymous with his name in India.

Five years back, that meet record stood at 8:39.18 (Elam Singh), and Sable had to cut his personal best by more than 23 seconds in two months to better it. He almost did it, clocking 8:39.81 to win. On June 5 this year, when Sable ran 8:12.48 in the Rabat Diamond League, there were no more Indian records left to break but his own, several times over.

His 2017 Chennai performance made the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) bring him into the national fold, six months after he had first heard of steeplechase. It was also to be the beginning of a torrid 12 months for the youngster, racked with an ankle injury (Sable blames his own over-training), self-doubts (failing to qualify for the Asian Games), alien conditions and unknown faces away from the comfort of his coach, army teammates and familiar surroundings.

Shaped by hardship

Born on September 13, 1994, in Maharashtra's Beed district, Sable developed endurance early, more out of compulsion than choice. Raised in a family of farmers struggling to make ends meet in a hot, water-scarce place, the army offered Sable a way out of deprivation. The 5 Mahar regiment became his refuge after school.

From 2013 to 2016, Sable was a regular *fauji* – posted at outposts such as the Siachen Glacier, the deserts of north-western Rajasthan in Lalgarh Jattan, border posts in Sikkim and the forests of Arunachal Pradesh – before being identified as a sporting talent and included in the army cross-country team in 2016.

The first stint with Belarusian coach Nikolai Snesarev in the national camp wasn't great. The comfort of familiarity was important for Sable and the Army Sports Institute (ASI) gave him that. Away from it, he struggled. Adhana says he tried to convince the AFI not to break Sable's training group at least until the 2018 Asian Games, then just eight months away, because he was a medal prospect. But the federation was insistent and Sable had to report at Shilaroo.

At the 2018 Federation Cup in Patiala, Sable avoided third place by a microsecond. By June, he had slipped to 8:49.25 at the inter-State in Guwahati. From being a medal hope to not qualifying for the Asian Games, it was quite a fall, as much in the mind as in the body.

Sable returned to the ASI after the Asian Games and the reunion sparked a period that saw him go from being just another runner to a record-breaking machine. He began with the 37-year-old national record of Gopal Saini (8:30.88), stopping the clock at 8:29.80 in Bhubaneswar. That's a neat 20 seconds shaved off in three months, one of which was spent off training!

"When you get the right results at the beginning, there is trust. Between us, there was clarity that indiscipline, aggression and being casual or negative in training won't do – not with any coach anywhere in the world. Being calm and focused is the only thing that gives results," Adhana says, explaining the runner's zen mode.

Sable's legend isn't only one of growth on track. Off it too, the 27-year-old has become confident – enough to train in California with coach Scott Simmons, all alone without an Indian face around him for reassurance.

"It took time and I was nervous, especially because others before me had struggled here but once I settled into training, it got better. The training partners and environment here is something not possible in India, they push you to constantly do better," Sable says. The fact that the next best Indian is almost 20 seconds off his pace also forced his hand.

Back home, he had got used to running a lonely race. "I know I have to compete against myself and it is difficult but not impossible. I set a target before every event and train accordingly, depending on my fitness. Competing internationally helps because you get pushed to do better," Sable has said. Few competitions and no competitors are definitely not what a top-level athlete craves. Now, he is happy not to worry about the pace or falling behind.

World-class run

"The best part about his race [in Rabat] was that he followed the plan perfectly. In India, if he goes out back, he is already going to be slow. But here there was no need to push the pace. I told him this was the first opportunity where he didn't have to worry about the pace; all he needed to do was relax and focus on himself," Simmons says, explaining Sable's performance.

This was the seventh time since 2018 that Sable has bettered himself, the latest in a field that included two Olympic gold medallists (Soufiane Bakkali and Conseslus Kipruto), an Olympic silver (Lamecha Girma) and bronze medallist (Benjamin Kigen, whom he finished ahead of). He has also added the last long-standing Indian track record of 5000m and the half-marathon to his kitty, becoming the first Indian to finish the 21km in under 61 minutes.

"*Abhi to aur bahut record tootenge* [There will be more records broken]," Adhana declares. "His base is strong and he will only get better. People don't know that the timings he is clocking now, he has already done it in training long back, even before the Olympics. The two bouts of Covid affected his performance at Tokyo and his mind after that but the momentum is back now. He can go under eight minutes and he will also break the 10,000m record, going under 28 minutes. He will win a medal at the CWG and if everything goes fine, gold at the Asian Games. These I can guarantee," is Adhana's bold prediction.

Simmons believes Sable is a natural athlete and only needs minor tweaks to be a regular challenger at the top level. The Rabat Diamond League, where he finished fifth, proved he was on track to do so sooner than expected. International sport is a game of fine margins, a grind dominated by champions that often have a long line of predecessors to emulate and exceed. Sable, by that definition, is an exception in a country starved of sporting icons.

He isn't yet the poster boy of Indian athletics but that hasn't stopped him from overhauling records by the dozen – with the promise of more to come.

> The best part about his race [in Rabat] was that he followed the plan perfectly. In India, if he goes out back, he is already going to be slow. But here there was no need to push the pace... all he needed to do was relax and focus on himself
>
> SCOTT SIMMONS, Coach

SABLE'S PERSONAL BESTS

5000m: **13:25.65** (NR, 2022)

3000m steeplechase: **8:12.48** (NR, 2022)

10km: **30:36** (2019)

Half marathon: **1:00:30** (NR, 2020)

25km: **1:15:17** (2017)

3000M STEEPLECHASE PROGRESSION

2017: **8:39.81** (Chennai)

2018: **8:29.80** (Bhubaneshwar)

2019: **8:21.37** (Doha)

2021: **8:18.12** (Tokyo)

2022: **8:12.48** (Rabat)

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Daniil Medvedev	26	7,955	21
2	Alexander Zverev	25	7,030	19
3	Novak Djokovic	35	6,770	12
4	Rafael Nadal	36	6,525	10
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	5,150	25
6	Casper Ruud	23	5,050	27
7	Carlos Alcaraz	19	4,890	19
8	Andrey Rublev	24	3,870	25
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,760	25
10	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,735	24
11	Matteo Berrettini	26	3,480	17
12	Cameron Norrie	26	3,200	27
13	Jannik Sinner	20	3,185	28
14	Taylor Fritz	24	3,045	27
15	Diego Schwartzman	29	2,325	25

Top Indians ▸

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 169 ▲ 3 spots

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 287 ▼ 13 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,576	16
2	Ons Jabeur	27	4,340	19
3	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,306	20
4	Paula Badosa	24	4,245	25
5	Maria Sakkari	26	4,205	21
6	Aryna Sabalenka	24	4,046	20
7	Karolina Pliskova	30	3,777	17
8	Danielle Collins	28	3,255	19
9	Jessica Pegula	28	3,156	17
10	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,015	20
11	Emma Raducanu	19	2,952	23
12	Coco Gauff	18	2,886	17
13	Daria Kasatkina	25	2,645	21
14	Barbora Krejcikova	26	2,593	17
15	Leylah Fernandez	19	2,590	22

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 360 ▲ 2 spots

Rutuja Bhosale
Rank 455 ▼ 3 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS	WINS
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	175	6
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	129	1
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	126	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	111	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	102	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	77	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	50	0
8	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	44	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	39	0
10	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	22	0
11	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	16	0
12	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	15	0
13	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	15	0
14	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	13	0
15	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
16	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	3	0
17	Alex Albon	Williams	3	0
18	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	2	0
19	Mick Schumacher	Haas	0	0
20	Nico Hulkenberg	Aston Martin	0	0
21	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0

Max Verstappen

Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

POS	TEAM	POINTS	WINS	PODIUMS
1	Red Bull	304	7	12
2	Ferrari	228	2	8
3	Mercedes	188	0	5
4	McLaren	65	0	1
5	Alpine	57	0	0
6	Alfa Romeo	51	0	0
7	AlphaTauri	27	0	0
8	Aston Martin	16	0	0
9	Haas	15	0	0
10	Williams	3	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Viktor Axelsen	121,606	40
2	Kento Momota	112,554	28
3	Anders Antonsen	98,300	37
4	Chou Tien Chen	93,776	39
5	Lee Zii Jia	91,578	43
6	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	87,879	37
7	Chen Long	84,400	18
8	Jonatan Christie	82,812	37
9	Loh Kean Yew	77,854	33
10	Lakshya Sen	75,874	41
11	K. Srikanth	72,481	44
12	Rasmus Gemke	70,551	38
13	Ng Ka Long Angus	70,257	36
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	67,848	33
15	Lee Cheuk Yiu	66,061	36

Top Indians ▸

Lakshya Sen
Rank 10

K. Srikanth
Rank 11

Badminton Women's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Akane Yamaguchi	111,963	37
2	Tai Tzu Ying	111,645	24
3	An Se Young	103,603	45
4	Chen Yu Fei	103,456	28
5	Carolina Marin	100,380	23
6	Nozomi Okuhara	96,560	26
7	P.V. Sindhu	94,018	42
8	Ratchanok Intanon	87,549	38
9	He Bing Jiao	83,064	31
10	Pornpawee Chochuwong	78,265	43
11	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	70,294	49
12	Michelle Li	70,130	40
13	Wang Zhi Yi	69,978	28
14	Sayaka Takahashi	66,573	35
15	Mia Blichfeldt	63,819	30

Top Indians ▸

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 7

Saina Nehwal
Rank 24

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Joe Root	899	917
2	Marnus Labuschagne	892	936
3	Steve Smith	845	947
4	Babar Azam	815	815
5	Kane Williamson	786	919
6	Dimuth Karunaratne	772	781
7	Usman Khawaja	757	757
8	Rohit Sharma	754	813
9	Travis Head	744	773
10	Virat Kohli	742	937

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	901	914
2	R. Ashwin	850	904
3	Jasprit Bumrah	830	835
4	Shaheen Afridi	827	827
5	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
6	Kyle Jamieson	788	836
7	James Anderson	787	903
8	Kemar Roach	756	780
9	Neil Wagner	752	859
10	Trent Boult	747	825

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	892	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	815	815
3	Virat Kohli	811	911
4	Rohit Sharma	791	885
5	Quinton de Kock	789	813
6	Ross Taylor	775	841
7	Rassie van der Dussen	769	776
8	Jonny Bairstow	752	796
9	David Warner	737	880
10	Shai Hope	718	808

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	726	770
2	Matt Henry	683	691
3	Shaheen Afridi	681	688
4	Chris Woakes	680	711
5	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
6	Josh Hazlewood	679	733
7	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	712
8	Mehedi Hasan	661	725
9	Mohammad Nabi	657	657
10	Shakib Al Hasan	657	717

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	818	896
2	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
3	Aiden Markram	757	796
4	Dawid Malan	728	913
5	Aaron Finch	716	900
6	Devon Conway	703	784
7	Ishan Kishan	682	717
8	Pathum Nissanka	661	689
9	Rassie van der Dussen	658	780
10	Martin Guptill	658	793

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Josh Hazlewood	792	806
2	Adil Rashid	746	746
3	Tabraiz Shamsi	709	821
4	Rashid Khan	709	816
5	Adam Zampa	698	743
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	797
7	Anrich Nortje	658	695
8	Maheesh Theekshana	647	647
9	Ashton Agar	640	717
10	Nasum Ahmed	637	637

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Plastic ban: Less awareness, no enforcement

In various parts of Bengaluru, single-use plastic was being used as usual on the first day of the ban

SAMHITHA B.S.
ARCHITA LAKHOTIA
ADITHI HOLLA
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) may have declared that single-use plastic (SUP) items cannot be used from July 1, but in various parts of the city, SUP usage went on as usual owing to a lack of awareness.

Every business had its own kind of problem with the ban of SUP. For instance, pharmacists cannot sell earbuds which come with plastic sticks anymore.

"The remaining stock which has come with plastic sticks will be returned to the distributors free of cost and then we will place an order for those with wooden sticks," said Anand, who works at a medical store.

Sahil, a printout vendor in HSR Layout, said, "I came to know about the ban only yesterday (Thursday). At our printing shop, we will have to stop plastic lamination and directly hand over marks cards and other documents to the customers. The initiative taken by the government is good, only if it is implemented properly".

There is also the confusion of what is permitted and what is not, as some dairy stall owners wonder what they should do about the plastic packets of milk, curd, and other items.

"The plastic for bread and milk packets is given by the government itself. We do not know what step to take ahead. As for the plastic milk bottles, they will be replaced by the glass bottles," said a vendor.

Used plastic materials dumped at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Friday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

B.R. Manjunath, who worked at a Nandini outlet in Basavanagudi, said that they have stopped giving out straws with their products like buttermilk or flavoured milks for months now. He too had doubts about the plastic packets which the products come in.

The worst-affected seemed to be hawkers for whom the search for an alternative is a cause of worry as paper or cloth bags cost more than plastic bags. Many of them gave away plastic bags on Friday, while even customers, who were not aware of the ban, demanded the bags. "These bans keep coming and going. We spend money to buy paper bags and then after a few days, no one will care about it. I will not buy alternatives in bulk, at least for now," said Devanna, a fruit seller in Seshadripuram.

"I only got to know about the ban after some customer told me," said Raja, a fruit vendor in Chamarajapet. "We have been using these covers for a long time and it is becoming difficult for us to implement an alternative. This decision might be a good one, but it affects vendors like us," he added.

Shyamalamma, a flower trader in Gandhi Bazaar, also complained that the alternative was very expensive. She was unsure of what to do with the purchased packets of bags. "Each paper bag costs around ₹15-20 per piece, but plastic carry bags at retail were available at ₹2 per piece. Now why would I spend so much while I already have these plastic bags," she asked.

The tender coconut sellers, whose businesses primarily depend on straws, think that the alternative paper straw will not work out for them at all.

"Not only are they costly, they also get soggy easily," said Mahadeva, a seller in Basavanagudi. He added that although he does not have a choice now because of the ban, he will continue to give plastic straws until the stock gets over.

Many other shops in the locality said that they either have to give out plastic bags, use wrapping films until the stocks get over, or lose out on the money they have spent on these items.

Apart from this, sweet corn sellers, juice, and ice cream centres, small eateries which sell coffee and tea were all seen using plastic cutlery across the city.

However, BBMP Marshalls or any other KSPCB officers were not spotted at most commercial places until Friday evening. But in K.R. Market, traders reported that Marshals visited the area and seized plastic bags from vegetable and flower traders.

Cost of alternatives

The extra cost of alternative paper/cloth bags is now being imposed on the customers at most medium and large-scale shops. "If someone wants a bag, we charge them for it. So, the differential cost of alternatives isn't borne by us," said a cloth store in south Bengaluru.

He explained how this incentivises people to carry their own bags.

Six years down the lane, SUP ban not so effective in city

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The whole country might now cut down on its single-use plastic (SUP) products, but Karnataka was the first State to impose a ban on these products in as early as 2016. Although the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) came up with enforcement plans, over the years, the movement floundered, especially in the last two years owing to COVID-19.

Despite Karnataka imposing a ban on plastic products in 2016, they were still in use in 2018. • FILE PHOTO

The ban was somewhat effective at larger commercial establishments where the owners decided to switch to paper bags. But at the ground level, from milk parlours to neighbourhood vegetable vendors, nobody could cut down on the use of cheap and easily available plastic bags.

"Many customers come to buy fruits and vegetables on their way back from the office. Those people will not have any bags with them and will only ask for plastic covers as paper bags get torn when semi-wet produce is kept in it," said Venkatesha, a vegetable and fruit shop seller in Yeshwanthpur.

The plastic manufacturers eventually stopped producing SUP products, but a few factories in the interior industrial areas continued to produce them.

"How will we know when someone is in the unorganised sector produces these things. On top of that, there was an inflow from other States and even border districts. Especially during COVID-19, SUP came back unchecked. SUP was used for everything including wrapping dead bodies. Nobody said anything back then as time were such," said Suresh Chandra Sagar, a plastic manufacturer and secretary at Machohalli Industrial Association.

BBMP officials say that they have been at enforcement for five years. A senior official mentioned that zonal teams visit commercial areas during the weekends and carry out drives. "We have constituted teams and they have been collecting information and penalising offenders while also creating awareness," another senior official said.

Woman killed

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A street vendor, who sold flowers at the busy Sumanahalli Junction, was mowed down to death by a tipper lorry on Thursday evening. Gowramma, 65, who bought flowers from K.R. Market returned to Sumanahalli Junction in a bus, was crossing the road when the lorry mowed her down.

The police have arrested the lorry driver.

More long-distance trains to be operated from Baiyappanahalli

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The footfall at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli (SMVB) will increase further as the Railways have decided to run more trains from this station.

The South Western Railway started commercial operations of the terminal on June 6 with three pairs of trains and a local MEMU train to Bangarapet. Now, it has been decided to operate six pairs of long-distance trains from the Baiyappanahalli terminal by shifting them from Yeshwanthpur.

The six train services are Hatia - SMVB (18637/18638), SMVB - Bhubaneswar (12845/2846), SMVB - Howrah (22887/22888), SMVB - Hatia (12835/12836), SMVB - Tatanagar (12889/12890) and SMVB - Muzaffarpur (15228/15227). The frequency of all the services are weekly, barring SMVB - Hatia (12835/12836), which is bi-weekly. Divisional Railway Manager (Bengaluru division) Shyam Singh said, "Shifting of train services to SMVB will help in decongesting Yeshwanthpur and Cantonment stations. We will gradually increase the services at SMVB after assessing the feasibility." The new services from SMVB will be operational from July 16.

The SWR spent ₹314 crore for the terminal that has better facilities than other railway stations. One of the main objectives of constructing this terminal station was to decongest Yeshwanthpur and KSR Bengaluru stations in the city. The SMVB was officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister on June 20.

State govt. shunts out Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner after corruption allegations

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The State government on Friday shunted out J. Manjunath as Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru (Urban), after he came under a cloud over corruption allegations.

On May 22, sleuths from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Deputy Tahsildar Mahesh and a court assistant Chetan Kumar, while they were allegedly taking a bribe of ₹5 lakh from a landowner Azam Khan.

Though Mr. Azam Khan and Mahesh, in their statement, said that Mr. Manjunath had demanded the bribe, his name was not included in the FIR, which received flak from the Karnataka High Court, following which Mr. Manjunath's name was added as an accused in the FIR.

Hearing the bail application of the accused Mahesh, Justice H.P. Sandesh had made several critical observations about ACB and it's investigation.

This has embarrassed the State government, as Opposition leaders like H.D. Kumaraswamy had also come down heavily on the government over allegations of corruption and posting tainted officers to the ACB.

After being pulled up by the high court, ACB had summoned Mr. Manjunath and interrogated him in the case on Thursday, sources said. Mr. Manjunath has also moved for anticipatory bail, sources said. The State government on Friday transferred him out and gave Sangappa, CEO, Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru (Urban), the additional charge as DC, Bengaluru (Urban).

Mr. Manjunath has been posted as Director, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Bengaluru.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT (GeM)
Bid No. 1) GEM/2022/B/2296220 Dt: 27.06.2022
& 2) Bid No. GEM/2022/B/2296221 Dt: 27.06.2022
The Undersigned on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Bid (GeM) for the following work:

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Custom Bid for Services-Repairs to power car engines during POH at CWS MYSS.	Rs. 95,29,839.14
2	Custom Bid for Services-Servicing Repairs of DG Set Radiator Fan Motor 1 No. Servicing of Ventilation Motor Exhaust Fan 2 Nos. Alternator set greasing 1 No. fuel tank Sludge cleaning 1 No. servicing of self-starter 1 No. and its allied equipments.	Rs. 78,32,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11.00 Hrs. on 18-07-2022
For details log on www.gem.gov.in
Divisional Electrical Engineer/Central Workshop Mysuru
PUB/189/AAD/PR/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my clients **Smt.Vedavathi.L.M W/o.Dr.B.L.Lingaiah** aged about 63 years, & Prashanth.L. S/o. Dr.B.L.Lingaiah, aged about 33 years, Residing at No. 276, Brundavana, 18th Cross, 20th Main, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, are the absolute owners of the **Property bearing Site.No.276, Formed by the BCITB, in Block Magadi road chord Road Extension, and bounded on East by Road, West by Site No.277, North by Site No.296, south by Road,** Measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 40 Feet. **Totally 2400.Sq.Ft.,** the same has been purchased through a sale deed our clients mother and Father.
My clientes have lost the original Rectification deed dated 7.07.1978 document No.1219/1978-79,vol-580,page no.134-135, registered in the office of the sub-registrar Srirampura and Sale Agreement, dated 22.11.1973 and registered on 24.11.1973 Volume No.381 at Page No73-74 in the office of the sub Registrar Vijayanagar Bangalore.
Any transaction held in respect of the said property without the knowledge of my clientes shall be void and my clientes shall not hold any responsibility over transaction held in respect the said property.
If any of the general public has found the said documents shall be handed over the same within **15 days** from the date of publication to the below mentioned address.
Mr. Dayananda.G.M,
Advocates and Legal consultants,
KAR 2472/2003, No. 49, 1st Floor, Opp. 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bangalore-560 002. M : +91 9900577458

COFMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS)
(Railway Offices Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi – 110002)
FAX: +91-11-23370493. EMAIL ID: cmetsp-rly@cofmow.railnet.gov.in
WORK E-TENDER NOTICE NO. COFMOW/IR/2022/WT-21
CORRIGENDUM Date: 27.06.2022
Name of Work: Integration Solution for High Capacity Bogie Dis-Assembly & Assembly line with Industry 4.0 IoT enabled as per scope of work at New Bongaigaon (NBQS/NFR), Dibrugarh (DBWS/NFR), Ajmer (AII/NWR), Lalaguda (LGDS/SCR), Bhopal(BPL/WCR)

FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION
Corrigendum-2	Corrigendum-2
Corrigendum-3	Minutes of Pre-Bid meeting held on 25.05.2022

For details, this tender notice and tender document are also available on https://www.ireps.gov.in.
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IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO:H.O./P&C/EST/E-1303/01/2017/ 16232 Dated : 28.06.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
1. Name of the Work : a) Construction of Internal approach Road & Culvert of 12mtr & 18mtr RoW at Indranipatna Industrial Estate, Dist. Cuttack. (Phase-I)
b) Construction of Internal approach Road & Culvert of 25 mtr RoW at Indranipatna Industrial Estate, Dist. Cuttack. (Phase-II)
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.166.81 lakh & Rs.404.58 lakh
3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) & 03 (Three) Calendar months.
4. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-25/2021-22	07.07.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.	21.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-986
OIPR-14003/11/0067/2223

Rail Land Development Authority
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002 Phone: +91-11-23232884, Fax: +91-11-23232858
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. RLDA/RFP/CD-42 of 2022 Dated 13.06.2022)
GRANT OF LEASE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON RAILWAY LAND PARCEL OF 6,596.28 SQM. RAILWAY LAND IN RAICHUR NEAR RAILWAY STATION, KARNATAKA FOR 45 YEARS

Land	Area of the Site	Built- Up Area	Bid Security	Reserve Price
Raichur (Near Railway Station)	6,596.28 Sqm.	12,986.43 Sqm.	Rs. 35.00 Lakh	Rs. 11.84 Crore

Online Pre-bid meeting : 12th July, 2022 AT 11:30 HRS.
(Online Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from Dy. General Manager/Marketing/SC)
Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 18.08.2022 UP TO 15:00 Hrs.
For Further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement portal www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA under the heading 'e-tender'.
For any clarifications, may please contact: -

Dy. General Manager/ Marketing/SC	Jt. General Manager/ Planning-1	Chief Project Manager/ Secunderabad	Consultant/RLDA- Mr. Vasu Deva
M: 73375 50004	M: 78781 82717	M: 83854 89080	M: 80503 18273
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDA's Website.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group, ISRO HQ,
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage,
Bengaluru-560008. Phone: 080-25037-388/210/387/192
BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

Name of work	Providing Foundation for 10Cum, 30Cum and 35Cum EBW Machines at ITPF, Tumkuru, Karnataka.
Tender Notice No.	CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/03/2022-23 Dt. 01.07.2022
Estimated Cost	Rs. 41.00 lakhs
Period of Completion in months	Forty Five (45) Days
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 18.10 Hrs on 01.07.2022 To 23:59 Hrs on 06.07.2022
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14:30 Hrs on 08.07.2022
Due date and time for opening of tenders	15:00 Hrs on 08.07.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO Also detailed notice inviting tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, can be downloaded from website www.isro.gov.in
Sd/- Group Head CMG, ISRO HQ

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2 AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 833 of 2021
M/s. CANARA BANK
R.A.H. (KORAMANGALA) BR., B'LORE-34.
Rep. by its Div. Manager Vis. ....APPLICANT
Sri. SHEKAR BHARADWAJ & ANOTHER ....DEFENDANTS
SUMMONS TO THE DEFT. Nos. 1 & 2 ISSUED UNDER REGULATIONS-16 OF THE DRT-I-2015
Deft. No. 1: Sri. SHEKAR BHARADWAJ
Aged about 35 Years, S/o. Sri Suresh-Bharadwaj, R/@. Flat No. R-206, 2nd-Floor, "Purva Iris", MSO Colony, Doddigunte Village, Maruti Sevanagar, Bangalore-560 005.
Deft. No. 2: Sri. C.V. KIRAN KUMAR
Aged about 38 Years, S/o. Sri C. Veerappa, R/@. Flat No. 313, "Spectra Sylvan Apartment", Opp. SCT College, Kagadasapura Main Road, B'lore-73.
WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted the application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 66,00,000/=** alongwith court costs, and current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 13th day of October 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 20th day of June 2022 at Bangalore.
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 for Karnataka # 4, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, 1st Floor, Residency (Hayes) Road, Bangalore-560 025.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT
O/o Directorate of Aviation, near BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar - 751020
Tel. No: 0674-2596128 Email: orissa_aviation@yahoo.co.in
RFP No. 5391 dt. 29.06.2022
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department is looking for experienced qualified firms to provide the service for disassemble, shifting from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar, assembly, restoration and interior / exterior renovation of an old Dakota (DC-3) aircraft, which is presently lying inside the NSCBI Airport, Kolkata.
Eligible and interested firms/agencies may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Government of Odisha and submit their offer,
http://www.odisha.gov.in/tender & https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders
Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by **03:00 PM on 30.07.2022**. Bids received after the above deadline shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd-
Additional Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department Government of Odisha
J-7;
OIPR-38001/11/0004/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
HIRING OF TWIN ENGINE TURBO PROP AIRCRAFT ON WET LEASE BASIS
RFP No. 5383 dt. 29.06.2022
Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department desires to hire a twin engine turbo prop aircraft (2 pilots + 6 passengers) for a period of 1 year i.e. from **01.10.2022 to 30.09.2023** complying to all safety norms as prescribed by the DGCA from time to time for flying of VIPs like Governor, Chief Minister, Ministers and other dignitaries. The hired aircraft will be stationed at Bhubaneswar.
Eligible and interested aircraft operators may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Government of Odisha and submit their offer,
http://www.odisha.gov.in/tender & https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders
Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by **03:00 PM on 25.07.2022**. Bids received after the above deadline shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd-
Additional Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department Government of Odisha
J-6;
OIPR-38001/11/0003/2223

Freestyle queen Ledecky closer than ever to immortality

After not matching her own lofty standards at the 2019 Worlds and Tokyo Olympics — she still won three gold medals — the American swimmer was unstoppable in Budapest. She added four World titles to take her tally to 19, a number bettered only by Michael Phelps

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

When you win two gold and two silver medals at an Olympics, you are entitled to indulge in a cheat meal of choice and relive memories of a legacy-establishing performance.

Katie Ledecky allowed herself a hamburger, savoured the time gainfully spent in the Tokyo water and ensured that the people who supported her knew how much she valued them.

But — and perhaps this is one of the things that separate the greatest from the great — she felt it was time for a reset. After a difficult World Championships in 2019, when she won just one gold and struggled with illness, and last year's Games, where she was beaten for the first time in an individual event in three editions, Ledecky knew she had to evolve to reassert her dominance.

Seven Olympic titles and 15 World crowns weren't enough; she wanted everlasting superiority in the freestyle.

"I'm starting to shift my mindset toward the future, but also just kind of trying to let these past five years sink in, and Tokyo especially, and my whole career up to this point," she told *The Stanford Daily*. "I'm planning on 2024. I think each Olympic cycle brings new and different challenges."

So Ledecky decided to shift base from California to Florida last October to work with Anthony Nesty, who won the 1988 Olympic butterfly gold for Suriname. An assistant for Team USA at Tokyo, Nesty had guided Bobby Finke to 800m and 1500m freestyle golds and Kieran Smith to the 400m freestyle bronze; his expertise in the distance freestyle events appealed to Ledecky.

The move to Florida also offered Ledecky the valuable opportunity to train with competitors who would push her — America's top male mid-distance and distance swimmers.

"I was training with a college team [Stanford University], and I'm older than most of the other swimmers," she said. "I didn't have too many mid-distance, distance people to train with. I'm excited to be a part of the University of Florida's world-class programme and train with coach Nesty and the top-tier mid-distance and distance training group."

Ledecky, 25, had two specific challenges to counter. One was historic: she was seeking to become the oldest female World and Olympic champion in the mid-distance events over the next three years; these stamina events have long been a stronghold of the 'youngsters', which in swimming terms has been 23 and under. The other challenge was her own greatness: when you are already the best-ever at what you do, how much room do you have for progress?

Failing spectacularly describes what I aim for in practice, where I am pushing the limits and am so aggressive that there is a chance that I might fall off. I push myself to a breaking point

"We talk a lot about improvement," Ledecky told *NBC*. "Of course, improvement looks a little different for me than some other people, given that my times are really hard to improve. I've acknowledged that, and I've learned that over the years."

So the interest in Ledecky's performance at the recent World Championships in Budapest was at an all-time high. She wouldn't face Ariarne Titmus, the woman who beat her in the 400m freestyle in Tokyo, because the Australian had decided to concentrate on the Commonwealth Games, but could Ledecky prove that her best — domination — wasn't behind her?

Not fading away

She did just that, showing that some 'old' swimmers don't fade away as fast as they used to and that a few prodigies stay prodigious ten years into their career.

When she won the 800m freestyle at the 2012 Olympics at 15, Ledecky was a teenage sensation. Her 800m freestyle gold last Friday was a record fifth straight World title in that event, something nobody else, not even Michael Phelps, has achieved. It was also an eight consecutive triumph, across the Worlds and the Olympics, in the 800m freestyle!

"I think back to London," Ledecky said. "I made it a goal to not be a one-hit wonder and here we are 10 years later, so I'm really proud of that and still excited for the future as well."

Ledecky's time of 8:8.04 was under four seconds off the world record she set at the 2016 Olympics. "I'm happy with that," she said. "Fastest I've been in a couple of years."

The timing, the fifth quickest ever, also means Ledecky has swum the 27 fastest races in the history of the women's 800m freestyle — a sports monopoly, if ever there was one.

I think back to London [2012 Olympics]. I made it a goal to not be a one-hit wonder and here we are 10 years later, so I'm really proud of that and still excited for the future as well

LEDECKY'S MAJOR TITLES

7 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS

- **200m** freestyle (2016)
- **400m** freestyle (2016)
- **800m** freestyle (2012, 2016, 2020)
- **1500m** freestyle (2020)
- **4x200m** freestyle (2016)

19 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD MEDALS

- **200m** freestyle (2015)
- **400m** freestyle (2013, 2015, 2017, 2022)
- **800m** freestyle (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022)
- **1500m** freestyle (2013, 2015, 2017, 2022)
- **4x100m** freestyle (2017)
- **4x200m** freestyle (2013, 2015, 2017, 2022)

It was also her 19th gold at the Worlds, second only to Phelps' 26, and her fourth at Budapest. She earlier helped the USA win the 4x200 freestyle relay, two days after she won the 1500m freestyle, which came two days after she won the 400m freestyle.

She completed the 400/800/1500 triple for the fourth time at a single Worlds, more than all the other swimmers who managed the feat combined. Germany's Hannah Stockbauer, Australia's Grant Hackett and China's Sun Yang each managed it only once.

At 25, Ledecky is older than any woman to win a World Championships distance freestyle race (400m, 800m and 1500m).

And she's not finished yet. "This is just the start, which is tremendously exciting for me," said Ledecky, who said the changes to her approach are paying off. "There have been a couple of things that are a little different — training with the men, to try to keep up as much as I can and they push me. I hope that they feel that they've benefited from me being there, and just a lot of work on my stroke and my rhythm."

Ledecky's stroke and rhythm are unique — described as a 'gallop' or a 'giddy-up', she has a slightly longer right stroke than left, in part because she breathes exclusively to her right. Her pull underwater is exemplary: her early vertical forearm pull is efficient and less susceptible to injury. She kicks less in longer races, only using a strong kick in the final stages and in shorter races.

In addition to focusing on her stroke and rhythm, Ledecky is also monitoring her competitive workload. When Phelps won eight gold medals at the 2008 Games, he swam about 3,300 metres; Ledecky swam 6,200 metres at the Olympics last year. She is looking to reduce it to the mid-5,000s in major events by dropping the 200m.

It isn't merely the total distance, although that is a major factor. The more events she enters, the less time she has to recover between races, which leaves her vulnerable to younger rivals — the most formidable among them at the moment being Titmus, four years Ledecky's junior.

The Titmus rivalry

Titmus has had the measure of Ledecky over 400m, beating her at both the 2019 Worlds and the 2020 Olympics. The Australian also recently bettered Ledecky's world record in the 400m freestyle, which the American had set at the 2016 Olympics. Titmus thus became the first swimmer other than Ledecky to break a Ledecky world record!

Ledecky, however, retains her superiority over 800m and Titmus doesn't swim anything longer.

The rivalry has pushed both women to their best, and although they aren't scheduled at this moment to compete against each other this year, they are likely to go head to head in two World Championships and the Olympics over the next two years.

"I can't put myself up next to her," Titmus said of her rival. "What she has done for female swimming has been insane. She's been at this level for 10 years. To be in the conversation with her, I feel completely honoured. I wouldn't be here without her. I hope this is going to keep the battle going, give her some drive, hopefully, we can see how much faster we can keep going."

Ledecky, for her part, said she enjoys the thrill of being chased as much as she enjoyed the thrill of the chase. "It's great for the sport, great to have somebody like [Titmus] to race," she said. "And I know that there are other swimmers as well that are coming up that are going to be very competitive over the next couple of years. So that definitely keeps me on my toes. And I think we'll continue to have some great races."

GETTY IMAGES

GAME THEORY

Rubbing shoulders with Bradman, Headley, Merchant, Tendulkar and Dravid

Sarfaraz Khan, 24, continues to pile on the runs in First Class cricket, topping the charts for the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy season. He became only the third player, after Ajay Sharma and Wasim Jaffer, to tally more than 900 runs in two separate seasons. Significantly, he is now on the all-time top-five lists for batting averages in the Ranji Trophy and First Class cricket

MOST RUNS IN RANJI TROPHY 2021-22 SEASON

Batter	Team	Matches	Innings	Runs	Average
Sarfaraz Khan	**Mumbai**	**6**	**9**	**982**	**122.75**
Rajat Patidar	Madhya Pradesh	6	9	658	82.25
Chetan Bist	Nagaland	4	6	623	311.50
Yash Dubey	Madhya Pradesh	6	10	614	76.75
Shubham Sharma	Madhya Pradesh	6	9	608	76.00
Sakibul Gani	Bihar	3	5	601	150.25
Taruwar Kohli	Mizoram	3	6	526	131.50
Yashasvi Jaiswal	Mumbai	3	6	498	83.00
Shrikant Mundhe	Nagaland	4	6	492	98.40
Shahbaz Ahmed	Bengal	5	10	482	60.25

HIGHEST RANJI TROPHY BATTING AVERAGE (MIN: 2,000 RUNS)

Batter	Matches	Innings	Runs	Average
Vijay Merchant	32	47	3,639	98.35
Sachin Tendulkar	38	57	4,281	87.37
Rusi Modi	29	37	2,696	81.70
Sarfaraz Khan	**23**	**35**	**2,445**	**81.50**
Rahul Dravid	48	70	4,874	81.23

HIGHEST FIRST CLASS BATTING AVERAGE (MIN: 2,000 RUNS)

Batter	Matches	Innings	Runs	Average
Don Bradman	234	338	28,067	95.14
Sarfaraz Khan	**25**	**37**	**2,530**	**81.61**
Vijay Merchant	150	234	13,470	71.64
George Headley	103	164	9,921	69.86
Bahir Shah	29	48	2,554	69.02

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

PICTURE THIS

MARCO KOST/GETTY IMAGES

Walking on air

The long jump is one of athletics' most spectacular events to watch, featuring competitors who, in slow motion, appear to float through air.

It's a demanding discipline, requiring speed, strength, agility, body-control and high levels of technique in every aspect of the jump: run-up, take-off, flight, landing.

At the top level, jumpers sprint down a runway, similar to running tracks, and take off from a wooden or synthetic board eight inches wide. They land in a pit of soft sand. The jumper has to start the leap without any part of the foot past the foul line.

There was a time in the 1970s when some jumpers used a forward somersault as they travelled through the air — the front flip both ensured the competitor didn't break the forward momentum and also reduced air resistance. This made it the most effective technique for the longest jumps.

But the risk of injury with the front flip led to it being banned.

Mike Powell (8.95m) and Galina Chistyakova (7.52m) hold the men's and women's long jump world records, respectively. The men's season leader this year is Simon Ehammer (8.45m), with India's M. Sreeshankar second (8.36m). Malaika Mihambo (7.09m) is the women's season leader.

Pourakarmikas to continue strike

They want government to give assurance in writing

Pourakarmikas during a protest at Freedom Park on Friday. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Pourakarmikas across the State, who started an indefinite strike on Friday, decided to continue their strike on Saturday too, despite Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's assurance that all pourakarmikas on direct payment system would be taken on permanent rolls.

"The government has agreed to share a draft of the order making employment of all pourakarmikas on direct payment system permanent by Saturday. We have decided to wait till we get it in writing, before ending the strike," Maitreyi Krishnan, BBMP Guttige Pourakarmikara Sangha, said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Bommai chaired a meeting with the protesting pourakarmika unions in which he announced that the government will bring a law to bring all pourakarmikas on direct payment on permanent rolls.

On the question of garbage collection van drivers and loaders presently working under contractors, the Chief Minister reportedly said the government would form a committee to look into the modalities to eliminate contractual employment.

Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj went to Freedom Park and addressed the protesting pourakarmikas and assured them that their employment will be made permanent.

However, following his visit, the protesting unions met and decided to continue the strike on Saturday too, till the government shared the draft of the order and committed to it in writing.

Meanwhile, the strike on Friday affected the sweeping of streets across cities in the State. Meanwhile, door-to-door garbage collection was impacted only partially, as van drivers and loaders are presently working under contractors and did not participate in the strike in larger numbers like pourakarmikas.

₹2,000 hardship allowance

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Friday approved ₹2,000 monthly hardship allowance for pourakarmikas of urban local bodies in the State. Pourakarmikas working on both regular and contract basis in ULBs would benefit from the allowance, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy said.

Gang smuggling red sanders using stolen cars busted

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A gang smuggling red sanders using stolen cars was busted and two people were arrested by the Seshadripuram police recently. The arrested have been identified as Vignesh, 26, and Chandru, 25, both from Tamil Nadu.

The duo were stopped on the railway parallel road on June 23 during a routine check during the night, but they did not stop and tried to flee from the spot.

The police chased and caught the car and recovered red sanders. The police arrested the duo and their interrogation revealed that they were buying red sanders from forest dwellers in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

The police have now recovered 453 kg of red sanders worth ₹51 lakh and three cars stolen for the purpose.

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He is the Recipient of several prestigious national/international awards for outstanding contributions in 'aquaculture & fisheries'. Served as Member of the Planning Commission Technical Committee, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Pollution Control Board, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, Boards and Academic Council of various Universities and other organizations.

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Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust recovers ₹1.26 crore from hospitals

The amount has been refunded to 307 patients

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

The Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), which runs the State's health insurance schemes, has recovered a whopping ₹1,26,36,833 from hospitals that charged excess from government-referred COVID-19 patients during all the three waves. The amount has been refunded to 307 patients and their families so far.

When the pandemic hit the State in March, 2020, the Health Department roped in private hospitals and fixed the tariff for private walk-in patients, realising that government hospitals cannot handle the rush of infected patients. It also made private hospitals allot a certain percentage of their beds for government-referred COVID-19 patients.

While treatment for the government-referred patients was free of cost under the State's Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme (with reimbursement from the government), the hospitals were supposed to charge according to the fixed tariff for private walk-in patients.

However, in several cases walk-in patients were charged in excess (over and above the fixed tariff) and many government-referred patients were billed while reimbursement was also claimed from the government.

A total of 2,39,736 patients were treated free of cost under AB-ArK scheme during the three waves.

The SAST received complaints from 2,701 patients about such malpractices. On verification by the SAST, it was found a total of 316 hospitals (272 private and 44 government) were involved in instances of excess billing.

While 921 cases were referred to district grievance redressal committees and 138 to the BBMP for further action, the SAST conducted a hearing for 731 cases involving 100 private hospitals, according to data from SAST.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D., who is also the Executive Director of SAST, said the process of hearing 685 cases is under way. "We have recovered over ₹1.26 crore from 78 hospitals so far and have refunded it to the accounts of 307 patients. While ₹13.31 lakh has been recovered through hearings, ₹1.13 crore has been recovered through notices issued to the hospitals," the Commissioner told *The Hindu* on Friday.

Explaining that all bills of government-referred patients are cross-checked by SAST's call centre, he said SAST staff quizzed the patients thoroughly on date of admission, date of discharge, and the expenses incurred. "Our staff found that there have been cases where hospitals have collected lakhs of rupees from patients and then also claimed the bill from the government," he said.

He said notices were issued to such erring hospitals and they were made to reimburse the patient. "If they did not do it, SAST withheld further AB-ArK payments to the hospitals and refunded the patient directly," the commissioner said.

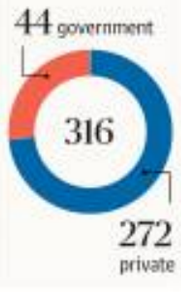
H.M. Prasanna, president of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes' Association (PHANA), said only a handful of the over 6,000 private hospitals in the State may have charged excess for medicine and diagnostic tests from patients.

"This could be mainly due to ignorance and some could have been out of greed. There was a lot of confusion on the treatment packages as to what was included and what was not during the first wave. We clarified from the government and issued an advisory from PHANA to our member hospitals in the beginning of the second wave giving clarity on the treatment packages," he said.

"PHANA does not stand with hospitals that violate government norms. We had advised our member hospitals to stick to price caps when billing COVID-19 patients," he added.

Fact sheet

- Total patients treated for free under AB-ArK during the three COVID-19 waves: 2,39,736
- Total amount recovered: ₹1,26,36,833
- No. of hospitals from which amount is recovered: 78
- No. of complaints received at SAST: 2,701
- No. of complaints under process of verification: 685
- Patients benefited so far: 307
- No. of hospitals involved in the complaints: 44 government; 316; 272 private



- People can still complain if they have been charged in excess with original bills for verification on 1800-425-2646; 1800-425-8660 or mail on cvosast@gmail.com

Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar announced on Friday during the EV rally and Bescom EV expo that a total of 1,008 EV charging stations would be established across Karnataka in the next two months. Bescom would also introduce 189 new charging stations. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai handed out MoUs to six companies who have signed up with Bescom to set up the stations on a revenue-sharing model. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Hospital management course at IIMB inaugurated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar on Friday inaugurated a professional certificate course in hospital management at the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said: "This is a dream come true for me. The new course will help in making the health delivery system holistic in both private and government hospitals."

The course, started by IIMB in association with cardiologist Devi Shetty, will have ten subjects, including principles of financing, management, economics and strategy.

The online course will, however, have one-day offline classes for those who are willing to attend. So far, 160 people have registered for the course.

"From the time I became the Health Minister, there used to be one permanent agenda on each review meeting with the department - how to train our doctors in administration and management. This is because good or bad management will be the difference between life or death in the medical profession," Mr. Sudhakar said.

"I wanted officials at the administrative level such as District Health Officers, Medical College Deans, District Surgeons, State Programme Officers and Joint Directors to be trained in management as people will get better quality healthcare," he asserted.

Pointing out that most of these health officers are experts in their fields, the Minister said: "They may not know the principles of management thereby reducing the efficiency of functioning and not optimally utilising the resources. This new course will not just be useful to Karnataka but also our entire country."

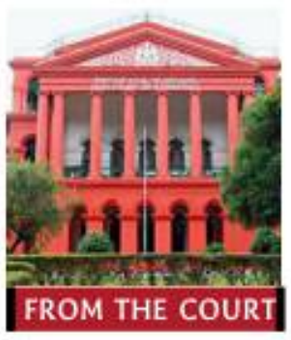
In a tweet, the Minister said, "I recall the first time I spoke with IIM Director @rishikesha and Dr Devi Shetty about plugging the managerial skill gaps amongst doctors and healthcare workers to ensure that hospitals, especially in the public sector, are run professionally and efficiently."

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar speaking at the inauguration of the hospital management course at the IIMB on Friday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Physically challenged girl gets back medical seat

HC directs authorities to admit her in MBBS course in Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU



A physically challenged girl, who had lost a seat in MBBS course allotted to her under all India quota in a government medical college in the State due to delay of a couple of seconds in submitting the disability certificate online, can now pursue the course as the High Court of Karnataka has asked the authorities to admit her against a vacant seat.

Tazeen Inamdar, a resident of Belagavi, had started attending MBBS classes from March 28, 2022, at Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi, after completion of admission formalities on March 24 under the quota for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in the mop-up round.

Later, the nodal officer of the institute told her about cancellation of her seat because of an issue over the disability certificate, and declined her request to give time till March 31, an extended date for admission as she had to bring a fresh disability certificate from the Goa Medical College and Hospital as required by the authorities.

Even though she went to Goa and sent the disability certificate through email and to the nodal officer's WhatsApp, it was a few seconds past 5 p.m. on March 31, the cut-off time, and hence her seat was allotted to another girl, Ms. Sehaj from Uttar Pradesh, under the same quota. Justice Krishna S. Dixit, before whom Tazeen's petition came up for hearing, found that Ms. Sehaj had vacated her seat in the institute and had joined another medical college and hence a seat has remain vacant again.

Victim of circumstances

"At times, life plays trick with persons and they become victims of circumstances, as has happened with the petitioner, a brilliant girl ... No prejudice would be caused to anyone if she is allotted the seat as Ms. Sehaj has already got seat elsewhere," the court observed.

"Justice of the case warrants, the poor petitioner being accommodated in the vacancy so that she would emerge as a good doctor to serve the society at large, in due course," the court said while directing the Medical Counselling Committee of the Ministry of Health, Government of India, to accommodate her in the vacant seat, which would otherwise go waste.

Woman kills minor daughter, ends life

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A woman allegedly killed her three-and-a-half-year old daughter and later killed herself in her flat in Mantri Alpyne Apartments in Channasandra, R.R. Nagar on Thursday night. The deceased have been identified as Deepa and her daughter Riya.

Police sources said they had found a death note in which Deepa claimed full responsibility for the act and said nobody else was responsible for her death. However, she has not mentioned why she took the extreme step. The police said Deepa's husband, Adarsha, in his statement to the police, claimed Deepa had been under treatment for high fever and stomach ache over the past several days and apart from that, there were no other issues.

R.R. Nagar Police have registered a case and investigations are on to ascertain what pushed Deepa to take the extreme step.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani. Ph.: 104 for help)

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO. S/09/2022-23 Dated. 29-06-2022. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works. **SN.1. Tender No.** 80/22/4066/OT/23/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Lubricating Oil Grade SAE-15 W/40 API CH4 or 15W40 C14+ for CIL- KTA50L DEMU Engines to RDSO Approved Brands.:1.Servo Pride XL 15W-40 CH4 or C14+ of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. 2. HP Dieseline 15W40 CH4 or C14+ of M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. 3. MAK-CH4 15W40 or 15W 40 C14+ of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. 4. Valvoline Premium Blue 15W40 CH4 or Premium Blue 15W40 C14+ of M/s Valvoline Cummins Limited. 5. Mobil Delvac Super 1400 15W40 CH4 of M/s Exxon Mobil. **Closing/Opening date: 21-07-2022. SN.2. Tender No.** 50/22/5094/OT/24/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter system (HASSDAC) with dual track sensors complete set as per RDSO specification RDSO/SPN/177/2012(Ver.3) with latest amendment or specifications, complete set with redundancy consisting of dual hardware for each track section like Evaluator/Processors, Vital Relays, Track side unit with Detection point, complete assembly & fixing arrangement for each detection point, clamp deflectors for either side of each detection points & dual display Reset Box with auto resetting facility for each track section. (One) (1) set consists of all equipments of one Block Line Section). As per Technical Specification attached with RDSO inspection. (Rev-2). **Closing/Opening date: 25-07-2022. SN.3. Tender No.** 50/22/5086/OT/25/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter system (HASSDAC) with dual track sensors complete set as per RDSO specification RDSO/SPN/177/2012 (Ver.3) with latest amendment or specifications, complete set with redundancy consisting of dual hardware for each track section like Evaluator/ Processors, Vital Relays, Track side unit with Detection point, complete assembly & fixing arrangement for each detection point, clamp deflectors for either side of each detection points, & dual display Reset Box with auto resetting facility for each track section. Details as per Technical Specification in Annexure-A, with RDSO inspection. **Closing/Opening date:** 25-07-2022. For details please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following works:

Name of Work : Proposed Opto-Mechanical Workshop and Raw Material Storage civil works at Aryabhata Campus, LEOS, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. **E-Tender Notice No**: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LMN-11 Dtd:29.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender : Rs.12.16 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 24,323/-. Period of Completion in months**: 02 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 30.06.2022. Closing date: 13.07.2022.**

Name of Work :: Proposed new Containing structure for new lab facility at ISRAD campus, LEOS Peenya, Bengaluru-58- (Civil works – 1. DG and AC compressor foundation 2. Renovation of toilet 3. Borewell). **E-Tender Notice No**: LEOS/CMG/CONT/STR/CW-01/ 2021-22/Civil works/Part-A Dtd:29.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender: Rs.15.51 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 31,028/- Period of Completion in months**: 03 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 30.06.2022. Closing date: 13.07.2022.**

Name of Work : Supply, installation, testing obtaining approvals from PESO/appropriate Govt. body & commissioning of 1No. of 20kL capacity underground diesel (UGD) tank and Providing, testing & commissioning of Diesel Pipeline from UGD tank/Overhead tank at Aryabhata building, LEOS campus as well as nearby LEOS campuses Peenya, Bangalore-58, with all necessary statutory approvals & obtaining NOC, license from concerned Departments. **E-Tender Notice No**: LEOS/CMG/EW-03/2022-23 Dtd:30.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender : Rs.61.20 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 1,22,400/-. Period of Completion in months**: 05 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 04.07.2022. Closing date: 25.07.2022.**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed **Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, APARNA Kumari Bharti D/o Ashok Kumar Singh R/o Moh. North Hisar Tank, Near I.M.A Hall, Gaya, P. S. Civil Linox, Distt. Gaya(Bihar) have changed my name from Aparna Kumari Bharti to Aparna Rai vide affidavit dated 28/03/2016 before Notary Sri Awadhesh Kumar, Gaya.

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Name of Holder: Abi Abraham M
Kind of Security/Face value: Equity Shares Rs 10 Each
No. of Securities: 100
Folio No: EXAD019724
Distinctive No: From 32300484 To 32300583
Bengaluru
28/06/2022 **Abi Abraham M**

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

AFFIDAVIT

I, KEMPAMMA (@ M. PUSHPA, W/o Mariswamy, age 83 years, R/at No. 568, 16th A Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **KEMPAMMA** and **M. PUSHPA** are one and the same and belongs to me only, hencefoerth I shall be known and called as **M. PUSHPA** only for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th June 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. JAYANNA** at Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE SUBORDINATE JUDGE OF PERUNDURAI
M.C.O.P. No: 80 / 2020

Udhayasankar,
Son of Sadasivam - Petitioner
V/s
P.Saravanakumar,
Son of Periyasamy,
No.4K, P.N. Extension,
Kalaipalayam,
Bangalore. --2nd Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the above compensation case filed by the petitioner is posted to 17.08.2022 for your appearance. If your failed to appear before the about court at 10.00 A.M. on that day the matter will be decided exparte.

S. Ayyappan, M.A.,BL.,
Advocate,
Perundurai - 638052,T.N.

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Now, govt. schools will have vans to pick up and drop students

There are 65 lakh students in 48,285 government and 6,312 aided schools

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to provide free pick-up and drop facility for children studying in government and government-aided schools across Karnataka, and will purchase vans for this purpose.

The government will make these purchases with the funds from the Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Plan. School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) will have to bear the cost of van driver salary, fuel charges, vehicle maintenances, and other expenses through other sources of funds.

A file photo fo a child going home from school.

Why school vans

There are 48,285 government and 6,312 aided schools across the State, and more than 65 lakhs students are studying in them. A large number of them are located in rural area.

Reaching schools is not easy for people living in regions like Malnad and Western Ghats, given the terrain, forest cover, and heavy rains. Lack of public transport service is another hurdle in regions like Kalyana Karnataka and other northern districts. Distance tends to be an issue for, particularly, middle and high schools students, and many walk long distances. These factors have often led to higher drop-out rates.

The government had started distributing bicycles to high school students since 2006-07 in view of this. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic and financial problems, the government has stopped the scheme since two years.

Idea of school merger

Another factor is decreasing enrolment in government schools and government's plans on school merger. According to the government, only two to three students are studying in about 3,000 primary schools across the State. And more than 13,000 schools have only five to 10 students. The government argues that running a full school infrastructure is unsustainable when numbers are so low.

The government is planning to start one new "Model school" in each gram panchayat across the State with proper infrastructure, play ground and full fledged teaching and non-teaching staff from the next academic year. The government plans to merge schools with low enrolment with the nearest model school. Then vans will come in handy to pick up and drop students.

B.C. Nagesh, Minister of School Education and Literacy, told to *The Hindu*, "Initially we are not providing school van to each and every school. However, where SDMCs are strong and have the capacity to maintain the vehicle, then we will provide them through the MLA-LAD Plan. With the help of donors, NGOs and other charities, SDMC can maintain the vehicle. In my constituency I have already provided one school van with support by the local co-operative society."

Gang held for cheating Kalaburagi doctor

They promised a medical seat for his son, and tried to lure him into a honeytrap

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A gang that cheated a doctor from Kalaburagi twice to the tune of ₹1.16 crore has been busted and five members of the gang were arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) recently.

The arrested have been identified as Nagaraj Siddanna Boruti, 36, Mallikarjuna Vali, 38, Madhushekhar, 28, Hameed, 31, and Basavaraj, 35. Of them, Nagaraj, the kingpin of the scam, was known to the victim, a doctor from Kalaburagi.

According to the police, Nagaraj promised to secure admission of the doctor's son in M.S. Ramaiah Medical College in Bengaluru and the doctor paid him ₹1.75 lakh for the admission fee.

Later, the doctor gave Nagaraj ₹60 lakh towards payment of, what he claimed to be, capitation fee and a bribe. However, when the doctor's son landed in the college, he realised he had not secured admission in the college and returned home.

The doctor followed up with Nagaraj and demanded he return the money, and landed in the city to collect the money. Nagaraj put him at a lodge in the Majestic area and said he would return with the money, said the police. However, a woman knocked on the door and as the doctor opened it, she entered. Then some policemen barged in, took their photographs, robbed him of valuables, and took the woman away, asking the doctor to contact them, according to the police.

Hours later, Nagaraj turned up at the lodge and threatened the doctor that there would be a police case against him for prostitution if he did not pay up ₹50 lakh, said the police. The police added that when the doctor said that he did not have that much money in cash, Nagaraj sent his men to the doctor's native village, who collected property documents from the family members.

The police probe has now revealed that Nagaraj had got his associates to pose as policemen to carry out the raid on the lodge. The police have now recovered 25 grams of gold ornaments, ₹26 lakh in cash, and a set of walkie-talkies used to pose as policemen.

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Timings
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SATURDAY, JUL. 02		
☀	RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
☾	RISE 08:27	SET 21:31
SUNDAY, JUL. 03		
☀	RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
☾	RISE 09:17	SET 22:11
MONDAY, JUL. 04		
☀	RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
☾	RISE 10:06	SET 22:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thunder-shower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Rain: Damage to property in DK ₹1.66 cr.

Damage to State highways, major district roads estimated at ₹80 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The loss to public property due to heavy rain which lashed Dakshina Kannada for two days from Thursday has been preliminarily estimated at ₹1.66 crore, according to Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra.

Damage to State highways and major district roads has been pegged at ₹80 lakh, the loss to village roads was estimated at ₹50 lakh and loss to a bridge has been estimated at ₹15 lakh.

The loss to power supply infrastructure, including damage to 74 electricity poles, has been estimated at ₹12 lakh. Government buildings suffered a loss of ₹8 lakh.

In all, 12 houses were severely damaged and 80 houses partially damaged in the district due to lightning and rain from April 1, 2022 to till date, he said.

A woman with a cow walking at Thokur in Mangaluru during the rain on Friday. • H.S. MANJUNATH

Meanwhile, the intensity of rainfall was low in Mangaluru city on Friday, while other areas received moderate to heavy rainfall. In the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Friday, Dakshina Kannada recorded an average of 80.9 mm rainfall, while Udupi district recorded an average of 81.7 mm rainfall.

Following orange alert till 8.30 a.m. on Friday, District Disaster Management Authorities of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi anticipated heavy rain and declared a holiday for educational institutions on Friday. However, the SSLC supplementary examination and training programmes of teachers went on as per schedule.

Rainfall

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), the Manglauru B hobli (cluster of villages) recorded the highest average rainfall of 135.7 mm in Dakshina Kannada in the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Friday. Vitla hobli in Bantwal taluk recorded 128.8 mm, followed by 111.5 mm in Pane Mangaluru hobli, also in Bantwal taluk. Gurupura hobli in Mangaluru taluk recorded rainfall of 108.7 mm. Belthangady hobli recorded the least of 57 mm rainfall in the period.

In Udupi district, Brahmavar hobli recorded the highest of 103.7 mm rainfall, followed by 102.1 mm in Kota hobli, 94.6 mm in Kapu hobli, and 92.9 mm in Udupi hobli. Least of 60 mm rainfall was recorded in Ajekar hobli of Karkala taluk.

FROM PAGE ONE

Deficit rainfall in first month of monsoon

Rainfall pattern: Southwest monsoon 2022 (As on July 1)

Region/District	Normal (mm)	Actual (mm)	% Departure	Rainfall category
Malnad	384	208	- 46	Deficit
Shivamogga	500	222	- 56	Deficit
Hassan	172	159	- 8	Normal
Chikkamagaluru	346	204	- 41	Deficit
Kodagu	566	266	- 53	Deficit
Coastal Karnataka	873	585	- 33	Deficit
Dakshina Kannada	972	636	- 35	Deficit
Udupi	1,155	845	- 27	Deficit
Uttara Kannada	728	471	- 35	Deficit
State	208	167	- 20	Deficit

Source: KSNDMC

Bengaluru Urban was not far behind, also recording large excess rainfall with a 129% departure, receiving 166 mm against 73 mm normal rainfall. North Interior Karnataka was the only region in the State that has received normal rainfall, with four districts in the region recording deficit rainfall - Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Haveri, Dharwad. Overall, seven districts had large excess rainfall, two excess, 12 districts came under the normal rainfall category, and 10 had deficit rainfall, KSNDMC data showed.

However, Manoj Rajan, Director, KSNDMC, said Coastal and Malnad can expect heavy to heavy rainfall during July 4 to 8.

Karnataka reports 1,073 new COVID-19 cases

With one death, the State's toll touches 40,076

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Friday recorded 1,073 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,70,484.

With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 4.19% and the weekly TPR touched 3.67%. Of the new cases, 1,008 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban.

With one death, the State's toll touched 40,076. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 834 persons were discharged on Friday taking the total recoveries to 39,24,232. Active cases stood at 6,134 on Friday.

As many as 25,587 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 18,273 RT-PCR tests.

With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,70,13,873.

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka, which began in June, is being held at various locations.

The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine. The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions. The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance.

The schedule

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Bengaluru South	July 2	Mangala Mantapa Auditorium	NMKRV College for Women campus 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
Hubballi	July 2	K.L.E. Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi
Ballari	July 3	BPSC Pre-University College	BPSC Pre-University College, Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	July 3	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysuru
Davangere	July 3	Bapuji Business School	Bapuji MBA College, Lake View Campus, S.S. Layout, Davangere
Kalaburagi	July 9	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

Platinum Sponsor for the event are: Presidency University, Bengaluru, Ramaiah University, Bengaluru, and Reva University, Bengaluru. The Gold Sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Nitte Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru. Silver Sponsors for the event are ACS College of Engineering, Bengaluru; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bengaluru; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bengaluru; Universal Group of Institutions, Bengaluru, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru. Other associate Sponsors are: CMR University, Bengaluru, KSOU, Mysuru; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, and Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru. Timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For details, contact: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift. All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

To pre-register for the event and STEP test, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3N2Sy2F

THE HINDU EDUCATION PLUS CAREER COUNSELLING 2022 KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

E-Tender Notification
(Two Cover System - Only through e-procurement portal)

No. KPCL/2022-23/EL/Work_Indent 12578 Date: 30-06-2022

Tenders are invited from reputed bidders through GOK e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Servicing of 10 kL, 6 kL, 5 kL, 2.4 kL transformer oil filter machines including replacement of spares" EMD:** ₹ 28,185/-. **Last date for submission of bids (both cover 1 & 2) along with documents:** 20-07-2022, 17:00 hrs. Bid documents can be downloaded from the above GOK e-portal. Further details can be had from the office of: **The Superintending Engineer (EM)-2, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District.** Mobile: 9449596534/9449596491

TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT CO ORDINATOR
I.T.D.P., MYSORE DISTRICT, MYSORE
No. DTWO/2022-23/IND197 Date: 21.06.2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

Two cover E-Procurment tender has been called to supply Group-A, Group-B, Group-C & Group-D Food and other items to the Pre matric, Post matric Hostels & Valmiki Ashrama Schools of Tribal Welfare Department of Mysore District, during the year 2022-23.

1) Tender No.: DTWO/2022-23/IND197 Date: 21.06.2022 **2)** Last Date for bid submisson : 21.07.2022 @ 17.00 **3)** Pre Bid meeting: 06.07.2022 @ 11.00 AM. **4)** Technical Bid Opening : 23.07.2022 @ 11.30 **5)** Total Tender Cost: Rs.529.80 Lakhs. **6)** E.M.D.: Rs. 7.96 Lakhs. All the Documents should be submitted thtrough online in E-Procurement portal only. D.C., Mysore retain the power of accepting or rejecting tender without giving any reasons.. For more information Contact office telephone No : 0821-2427140

Sd/- Project Co Ordinator, I.T.D.P., Mysore

DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/163/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Forest Department
Office of The Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga

Short-Term Re e-Tender Notice No.: WPSS/A2/D&P/e-tender/CR-22/2022-23 Date: 28.06.2022

Through e-procurement

Short-Term Re e-Tenders are invited through e-procurement for implementation of the work of "Survey and Demarcation of Notified Forests by providing and Fixing RCC Pillars/Cairns" in notified forest areas of various zones of Shivamogga and Sagar Divisions in Shivamogga Circle and Mangaluru and Kundapura Divisions in Mangaluru Circle for the year 2022-23, for 33 works of total approx. amount of Rs. Rs. 222.56 lakhs. Interested, eligible Forest Contractors can submit tenders within 4.00 PM on 06.07.2022. Can participate in the tender by confirming the details as published in the e-Administrative Center or in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in For more information this office can be contacted during office hours on Phone No.: 08182-250785.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests and Technical Assistant to Conservator of Forests Working Plan and Survey, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/No.18/07/mca/22-23/511

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

No.:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/EPR-20(22-23)/3289-90 Date:01.07.2022

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-20/CALL-02 Dtd:11.05.2022 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 11kV XLPE UG Cables (Stranded compacted aluminium conductor) of the size 1Cx1000Sqmm. to Tr(M), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, Bangalore conforming to Technical Specifications F.O.R.D. at store/site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

No.:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-/22-23/3294-95 Date:01.07.2022

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/22-23/EPR-24/CALL-02 Dtd:23.05.2022 for the work of increasing vertical clearance, strengthening by providing double string insulators of 66kV & 220kV Transmission lines passing over the school/premises in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle on Total Turnkey basis.

The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 02.07.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009, Tele-Fax: 080-22386686/85

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, D.C. OFFICE, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga-577501
(Ph & Fax No. 08194- 225713 E-mail : dudc_ctg@yahoo.co.in
No: DUDC/NAGAROTHANA Phase 04/TS 03/2022-23 Dt:28.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, DUDC, Chitradurga District invites tenders in Two cover system using **KW- 4** document from class-1 and above PWD contractors for Chief Minister Amruth Nagarothana (Municipality) Scheme (Phase 4) Project in Chitradurga District Package works as detailed below:- Description of work:-**Chitradurga City Municipal Council:-**
(1) **Package No. 01:-** Development of Road and Drains works in Chitradurga CMC limits under Chief Minister's Amrtuh Nagarothana (Municipality) Scheme (Phase-4) **Indent No. DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 132758.** Amount Put to Tender(Rs. in Lakhs):- 1123.00 EMD Amount(Rs. in Lakhs):-15.00 Period of Construction (including Monsoon) :- 18 Months
Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from from the e-Procurement platform **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.
Calendar of Events and other information are as follows: (1) Pre-Qualification meeting for Bidders **20.07.2022 11.30 PM** (2) Last date for Submitting Queries **30.07.2022 5.30 PM** (3) Last date for downloading of blank tender documents **06.08.2022 5.30 PM** (4) Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents **06.08.2022 5.30 PM** (5) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) **08.08.2022 5.30 PM** (6) Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) **After Technical Approval Bid** Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/290/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Chitradurga.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client is intending to purchase the property of residential Flat bearing old No. 302, New No. 35/7, situated 3rd Floor, measuring 1250 sq ft of super built up area & consisting of 3 bedrooms, along with one car parking space to the stilt in the building known as **"SRI LAKSHMI ARCADE"**, with 180 sq. ft. of undivided share, interest, right, title in the schedule 'A' property BEARING Site No. 35, PID No. 24-50-35, situated at 12th Cross, Lakshminarasymarapura, Bangalore, BBMP WARD No. 24, measuring **East to West : 33 feet** and **North to South : 70 feet. Totally 2310 sq. feet.** Any claims or objections may be lodged with the undersigned advocate within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections or claims are lodged with the undersigned within the said period, my client will purchase the schedule property as if there is/ and no claim and/or objection.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All the peace and parcel of the property bearing site No.35, PID No. 24-50-35, situated at 12th Cross, Lakshminarayanapura, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.24, measuring East to West : 33 feet and North to South : 70 feet, totally 2310 sq. feet and bounded on, East By : Property No. 23; West By : Property No. 25 & 26 of Muniswamy; North By : Conservancy; South By : Road

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All the peace and parcel of the residential Flat bearing old No. 302, New No. 35/7, situated 3rd floor, measuring 1250 sq ft of super built up area & consisting of 3 bedrooms, along with one car parking space to the stilt in the building known as "SRI LAKSHMI ARCADE", with 180 sq. ft. of undivided share, interest, right, title in the schedule 'A' property referred to above.

Sd/- S. KUMAR BA, LL.B, Advocate,
No. 91, Ground Floor, Temple Road, Next to Asha Sweets, Between 8th & 10th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. Ph: 09972887773 / 09448076798.

Place: Bangalore Date : 02.07.2022

National Forensic Sciences University
(An Institute of National Importance Under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

Admission Announcement

NFSU, a specialized university invites online applications from eligible candidates for admission to the below mentioned programme for the Academic Year 2022-23

School of Forensic Psychology

- BA-MA in Criminology (5-year Integrated course)

Last date of applying for Admission is 20th July 2022

For details related to eligibility, admission form and others, please visit **www.nfsu.ac.in**

Date: 30/06/2022

INF/763/22-23 **Executive Registrar**

Govt of Karnataka
Executive Engineer.PRE.Divn Huvinahadagali
No:EE/P.R.E/D/PB-3/Tender/333/2022-23 Dated;28.06.2022

Short term tender Notification.
(Through Government of Karnataka e-procurement)

Karnataka state's behalf of Governor Executive Engineer PRE.Divn Huvinahadagali Vijayanagara district has invited the Short -term tenders as per KTTP-2000 act and Govt order No:ಆರ್ಥಿಇ:22ಕಟಿಪಿ 2016:ದಿ:29-06-2017 through e-procurement for **the works Hadagali division under KKRDB head from the eligible contractor who are registered in PWD Dept. according to the** *Standard Bid Document KW- III&IV rules and regulations* **(As per updating in the web) based on turn-key. Calendar of events are as follows,**
1)Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : Date:08.07.2022 17.00 Hours. 2)Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : Date: 11.07.2022. 17.00 Hours. 3) Date & Time for Opening of tender : Date: 13.07.2022.11.00 Hours (Technical bid will be open). 4) Date & Time for Opening of Financial bid : Date:15.07.2022. 11.00 Hours
Pre-bid meeting on 09.07.2022.Place:PRE Divn office. Madalagatta road,Hadagali. For ***more information contact,CEG (Government of Karnataka***080-25501216/ 25501227or ***www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in*** and this office

Sd/- EE.PRE.Divn Hadagali

DIPR/Hospet/27/MCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)
(Through e-Procurement portal only)

Bids are invited in Two-Part system for the Procurement of following items required for **Yermaras Thermal Power Station & Bellary Thermal Prower Station (1)** No:KPCL/2022-23/IND6001 Dt:27.06.2022 **for 17MT Sodium Meta Bisulphite & 17MT RO Antiscalant (Polymeric) for Reverse Osmosis plant for the period of one year in staggered manner to respective projects as per the quantity schedule".** The bid documents can be downloaded from e-Procurement web from: **27.06.2022 (2)** No:KPCL/2022-23/ IND6005 Dt:28.06.2022 for **Procurement of 18MT Anionic Polyelectrolyte (Powder form) for pretreatment for the period of one year in staggered manner to respective projects as per the quantity schedule".** The bid documents can be downloaded from e-Procurement web from: **28.06.2022.** The details of Abstract Bid Notification can also be seen on KPCL website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in** Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** under login for Contractors. Further details can be had from the **Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), KPCL, # 3, 2nd Floor, Green Building, (Drugs Control Department premises) Palace Road, Bengaluru-01. Mobile No:09449596598 e-Mail:cetdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in**

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Mode only)

No: 908/BGK/Tr.(W&M)/SE(E)/EE(O)/AEE(E)-2/F-53/1959-70 Date: 30.06.2022

KPTCL invites tenders on electronic mode for the following works coming under Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Bagalakote, on Partial Turnkey Basis.

1). Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9374**. Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with switchgears at **110kV Halaki Sub-station** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalakote District.

2). Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9375.** Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with switchgears at **110kV Hebballi Sub-station** in Badami Taluk, Bagalakote District.

3). Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9376**, Providing additional 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with switchgears at **110kV Inchageri Sub-station** in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District.

4). Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9377**, Providing additional 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with 11kV Switchgear at **110kV Rodagi Sub-station** in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District.

5). Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9378**, Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with switchgears at **110kV Ukkali Sub-station** in Basavana Bagewadi Taluk, Vijayapura District.

The tenders will be received through e-portal mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website:**https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.07.2022, 12:00 Noon.**

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Retrofitting office buildings

This is part of moving towards an environmentally sustainable future. By **SHRINIVAS RAO**

With net zero commitments leading nations and businesses to create strong action plans, the focus is fast moving towards a more sustainable time ahead. Amidst the flurry of new zero pledges, it is imperative to bolster them with plausible and rational propositions. Given that the real estate sector is a key component of urban development, it evidently forms the nucleus of the goal of creating an environmentally sustainable future.

While the real estate sector has started adopting green construction, sustainable and energy-efficient strategies in the construction of new buildings, the overall impact will still be meagre. This is because existing buildings continue to increase their carbon footprint and energy consumption over their lifespan which is around 50 to 60 years. To this end, experts have noted that retrofitting existing buildings can help in delivering environmental, economic and social benefits to the society.

Methods implemented

The most important issue in buildings is energy conservation, followed by water saving, waste reduction and ecological protection.

> Adding insulation to exterior walls and making use of photovoltaics and LEDs make a difference

In Indian commercial buildings, HVAC alone consumes more than 50% of energy. In the American context, before retrofitting commercial buildings, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers suggests three levels of energy audit be completed to assess the current performance and the potential savings of the building. The findings of the audit act as a key for determining the most suitable retrofitting strategy. These include methods like adding insulation to exterior walls and floors, application of coats and foams, green roofing and ponding, new lighting shelves, making use of photovoltaics and LEDs, integrating Information Management software, using energy-efficient motors and appliances among others. For HVAC in specific strategies like chiller sequencing, use of low approach cooling towers, installation of Variable Frequency Drive and Auto Tube Cooling Systems are used. Additionally, new methods like façade systems, cool roofs, use of phase change materials in paints and other mixable building products and installing aerogel panels are also being widely considered for adoption in the retrofitting processes.

The Daikin office building in Dubai, UAE, is an example of how the sustainability goals were achieved using retrofitting techniques. Methods like efficient air conditioning for reduced energy consumption, fresh air handling units for indoor air quality, intelligent touch energy management systems, innovative lighting and environmental solutions were used which focused on facilitating functionality, user comfort, environmental impact and alignment with regulations.

Challenges and possible solutions

While retrofitting buildings is one of the ways forward towards achieving sustainability, it does have its own set of challenges, major one being the high initial cost and the payback period which often causes owners insecurity regarding the feasibility of the retrofits when compared to reconstructing. This is where Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) have emerged as an efficient solution.

ESCO business model operates on a turnkey basis and its earnings are derived from customer savings generated from energy consumption reductions.

Additionally, issues like lack of awareness and industry experience can be tackled by integrating technological advancements and adequate due diligence in the process. Another critical obstacle is the lease structure of the commercial buildings, wherein the tenant pays a major part of the operational cost and owners have no incentive to retrofit their buildings.

Long-term benefits

Retrofitting has long-term tangible and intangible benefits. The lifespan of buildings is increased by around 10 to 40 years. Expected operational cost savings over 5 years for new green buildings is 14%, while that for green retrofits is 13%.

The production of associated wastes can be prevented while conserving embodied energy. The occupancy rate, occupant satisfaction and productivity are significantly increased. As per several research surveys, more than 50% of occupants who work in environmentally sustainable buildings found their employees to be more productive.

Thus, retrofitting represents an opportunity to enhance the energy performance of the buildings and achieve sustainable development by upgrading the elements and components of the building. Stakeholders in India need to firmly deliberate upon retrofitting existing buildings in the country's key office markets as it can help in reducing GHG emissions and energy consumption.

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BG-BGE

Bababudangiri row: Cabinet accepts sub-committee report

It will be submitted to HC; ₹5.568 crore for Jal Jeevan Mission also approved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Friday accepted its sub-committee's report on religious practices at the Datta Peeta, a syncretic shrine at Bababudangiri in Chikkamagaluru district. This will be submitted to the High Court of Karnataka.

A Cabinet sub-committee headed by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy prepared the report.

In 2021, the High Court directed the State government to submit a report on conduct of religious practices at the syncretic shrine at Bababudangiri.

The Karnataka High Court, in 2021, issued an order directing the State government to appoint a Hindu priest to Datta Peeta.

It had quashed a March 2018 order which permitted a Muslim priest to enter the sanctum of the shrine and distribute "teertha", said Mr. Madhuswamy.

Mr. Madhuswamy told reporters that the government would file an affidavit before the High Court and submit the report. The Minister did not reveal the contents of the report and said it would be submitted to the High Court.

For safe drinking water

The Cabinet also approved ₹5,568 crore for implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in various habitations in different districts of the State. JJM is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural parts.

A sum of ₹2,054 crore was approved for JJM for all villages and three urban local bodies in Yadgir district, ₹115 crore in Chikkanayakanahalli, ₹1,385 crore for various taluks in Vijayapura, ₹33 crore for Gangavathi, ₹99.64 crore for Basavakalyan, ₹837 crore for various taluks in Haveri, ₹335 crore for Hanagal taluk, ₹150 crore for Bydagi, and ₹124.2 crore for Bhalki in Bidar, Mr. Madhuswamy said.

The JJM programme would also implement source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rainwater harvesting.

For civil courts

The Cabinet approved ₹252 crore for construction of building of civil courts in various districts of the State.

Mr. Madhuswamy said ₹32 crore had been approved for construction of a court building in Chikkodi in Belagavi, 11 crore for a court building in Mulbagal, ₹25 crore for Kolar, ₹15 crore for Srinivaspura, ₹121.9 crore for Ballari, ₹25.75 crore for Raichur, and ₹22.35 crore for a court building in Davangere.

438 Namma Clinics to be set up in ULBs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Cabinet on Friday approved the establishment of 438 'Namma Clinics' across urban local bodies, including Bengaluru city corporation wards, of the State. This was a Budget promise.

These clinics will provide services for detection of non-communicable diseases and referral for higher treatment to specialists. All wards of the BBMP will have at least one clinic. They will be modelled on lines of the Centre's health and wellness centres. All appointments would be on temporary terms. The clinics will reduce burden on the existing health facilities in urban areas, Minister J.C. Madhuswamy told presspersons.

The estimated cost of each clinic will be ₹36.45 lakh.

Govt. to pay stamp duty for lease pact with Nirani Sugars

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to pay stamp duty of ₹24.3 crore to execute the lease agreement with Nirani Sugars Ltd., for operating the Pandavapura sugar factory in Mandya district.

Speaking to reporters on decisions taken at a Cabinet meeting here on Friday, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy said Nirani Sugars Ltd., a company owned by Minister for Industries Murugesh Nirani, has been asked to reimburse the stamp duty to the government during the 10-year period.

Grant for airport

The Cabinet decided to grant an additional ₹65.5 crore for providing additional facilities at the airport at Shivamogga. Already a sum of ₹384 crore had been released to the airport, he said. A sum of ₹307.95 crore was approved for a project at Hutti Gold Mines and ₹19.9 crore approved for bridge-cum-barrage across Vedavati river at Mailanahalli in Challakere taluk.

One-on-one

BJP leader S.M Krishna and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the Press Day celebrations in Bengaluru on Friday. • BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Prices of curd, buttermilk, lassi, and paneer set to rise

KMF plans to appeal against removal of exemption given earlier

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Even though the State government has refused to hike the cost of Nandini milk and milk products marketed by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), the cost of curd, lassi, buttermilk, and paneer is set to increase, following the GST Council's decision to remove exemption provided to these products.

The GST Council, in its decision during the two-day meeting at Chandigarh on June 28 and June 29, agreed to withdraw GST exemption on specified food items based on the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers on rate rationalisation. It has removed exemption on pre-packaged and pre-labelled retail packs on items including curd, lassi, and buttermilk.

The KMF, largest operator in dairy and dairy products in the State, is set to increase cost of curd by ₹2.2 per litre, lassi and buttermilk by ₹3.75, and ₹3 per litre, respectively. Paneer will be dearer by ₹15 a kg. A formal request for rolling back the decision is expected to be made through a memorandum to the government.

As per the initial calculations after the rates were announced on Wednesday, the federation is expecting to pay about ₹22 lakh per day as GST on its total sales of curd, lassi, buttermilk, and paneer. The KMF markets about nine lakh litres of curd, 15,000 litres of lassi, 15,000 litres of buttermilk, and about 5,000 kg of paneer daily. The federation is awaiting notification for a clearer picture.

Effect of proposed GST on Nandini products

Product	Current rate	Proposed GST @5%
Curd	₹44 a litre	₹2.2
Lassi	₹75 a litre	₹3.75
Buttermilk	₹60 a litre	₹3
Paneer	₹300 a kg	₹15

To customer

KMF sources said that the cost will naturally be passed on to the consumer. Sources also pointed out that in the past when flavoured milk was brought under the GST regime, the KMF had appealed against it stating that it was a milk product, and marketed by a cooperative. "While the case is still being heard in the appropriate authority, we are paying the advance tax. The matter is yet to be settled and the cooperative tag has not worked."

Slamming the decision to bring certain packaged milk products under the GST fold, Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. (BAMUL) President Narasimhamurthy said that the State government has been stalling every proposal of the KMF to increase prices in the last three years despite price rise affecting farmers. "If the GST can be passed on to the customer, a moderate price rise in crucial milk products could also be made. On the one hand, farmers are not getting enough for their work, and on the other, unable to increase the price, the balance sheet of the district milk unions have been severely affected. Many district unions are now in the red."

KMF Managing Director B.C. Sateesh said that the matter is yet to be discussed, and the federation could appeal against removal of exemption. "A decision would be taken after consulting KMF chairman Balachandra Jarkiholi shortly."

DKS asks Rajanna to apologise to Deve Gowda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Friday condemned some uncharitable remarks made against former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda by party leader and former MLA K.N. Rajanna and asked the latter to tender an apology to Mr. Gowda.

Mr. Rajanna's remarks against Mr. Gowda, 89, were not in good taste, Mr. Shivakumar said. "We must respect the seniority of Mr. Gowda and his contributions to the State," Mr. Shivakumar said. D.K. Suresh, MP, also condemned the remarks made by Mr. Rajanna at Madhugiri in Tumakuru.

JD(S) party president C.M. Ibrahim and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy condemned the remarks too.

Video on quota in farm varsities released

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

'Krishipara Vishavavidyanilayagallali Krishi kota', a video on agriculture quota in agricultural universities was released on Friday by the Vice-Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, S. Rajendraprasad.

According to a release from University of Agricultural Sciences, the video https://youtu.be/xo9JIa3fGvE will help the students of farmers' families who have passed the pre-university course.

It will help students know more about various agricultural universities and agriculture quota.

The video will also be available on YouTube channel 'Yyedhelu Raitha', the release said.

Enjoyed practising law more as an advocate: Chief Justice Awasthi

He was speaking at a farewell event on the eve of his retirement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi

Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi of the High Court of Karnataka on Friday said that he enjoyed practising law as an advocate than his service as a judge.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my law practise and I dealt with many important and challenging cases. I candidly confess that the satisfaction it [practice of law as an advocate] gave was perhaps even more in comparison to my service as a judge," he said at the farewell given to him by the High Court and the Karnataka State Bar Council on the eve of his retirement.

Justice Awasthi, who led a three-judge Bench that had delivered the path-breaking judgment of declaring that "wearing of hijab by Muslim women does not form part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith", described Karnataka as reflection of unity in diversity and rightly referred as "one State and many worlds".

Terming young lawyers as the future of the judiciary, he said that they must be devoted to the profession of an advocate and should be honest to oneself, hard working, and humble towards others in order to be successful and meaningful legal practitioners.

Justice Awasthi, 62, who hails from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, was elevated as judge of the High Court of Allahabad in 2009 and took over as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka on October 11, 2021.

Ready to behead myself if I make a mistake: Judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

"I am prepared to stand in front of Vidhana Soudha and the High Court and behead myself if I make a mistake... that is the spirit with which I work as a judge..." said an emotional Justice B. Veerappa, a judge of the High Court of Karnataka, on Friday.

This was how he expressed "anguish and pain" over recent instances of some advocates making baseless allegations and casting aspersion on judges during court proceedings.

Justice Veerappa was addressing the advocates during an event organised by the Advocates' Association Bengaluru (AAB), to bid farewell to Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.

He requested Vivek Subba Reddy, president of AAB, to take action against such unscrupulous advocates while referring to an incident that occurred in the court hall on Thursday, which was also witnessed by Mr. Reddy.

An advocate behaved in an unruly manner with the judges during the proceedings of a Division Bench (comprising Justice Veerappa and Justice K.S. Hemalekha) and had repeatedly told Justice Veerappa that "I have filed three complaints against you" when the Bench was hearing a contempt of court petition.

Pointing out that judges sit in a "glass house", Justice Veerappa said that it is the advocates' association that has to come to the rescue of the judiciary when some members of the Bar make false and baseless allegations against the judges.

Judges can tolerate such conduct to some extent, but have no other option but to use *Sudarshana Chakra* on such advocates after they cross limits, Justice Veerappa said, asking the advocates to excuse him if he had hurt them due to his emotional outburst.

Reacting to the judge's anguish, Mr. Reddy said that the office-bearers of the association would discuss the issue and take appropriate decision while also pointing out that the High Court will also have to use *Sudarshana Chakra* on a few judges in the trial court for the manner in which they treat the advocates.

Third version of GST Prime launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The third version of GST Prime, an analytical system from National Informatics Centre that will help increase tax compliance, was launched by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday.

In the next version, critical databases like NREGA, BBMP, BESCOM, and e-procurement among others will be integrated to detect tax evasions, an official said. In future, the artificial intelligence and machine learning features will be introduced to pin point and detect fraudsters.

According to officials, GST Prime has helped officials in identification of top defaulters, detection of frauds, tax evasion and helps in analysis of tax payers data on various parameters. Sector-wise analysis is done and forecasting of tax collection is taken up using the tool, officials said.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
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No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/11/2022-23 Dated: 29-06-2022

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VIP visit fetches Dalit woman a gas connection

Bayavva Vasant Maste had prepared lunch on a firewood stove for Union Minister

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
BELAGAVI

Bayavva Vasant Maste has been cooking lunch and dinner over her firewood stove for decades. But the lunch she cooked for a group of VIPs finally turned out to be lucky for the 87-year-old widow, who finally got a cooking gas connection.

Som Prakash, Union Minister, and Mangala Angadi, MP, were among those who ate at the Dalit woman's kutcha home on Tuesday. They relished a typical north Karnataka meal with roti, dal, rice, stuffed brinjal, and groundnut chilli chutney. Ms. Bayavva and her daughter-in-law cooked it all on two firewood stoves.

When asked later why she did not have a domestic gas cylinder, Govind Karjol, district in-charge Minister, had said that "strict eligibility rules" of the scheme had resulted in her being left out, adding that she could still get a connection under general quota. But on Thursday, officials of the Food and Civil Supply Department visited Ms. Bayavva's home. They told her that she was selected under the Ujwala scheme and she would get a gas cylinder. She was surprised to find that the same officers who had rejected her application for a subsidised cylinder earlier had come to her doorstep to deliver a gas kit that included a stove, regulator, and pipes.

Officials hand over a domestic gas kit to Bayavva Vasant Maste in Hindalga village of Belagavi district on Thursday. • P.K. BADIGER

However, the officer told her on Thursday that her application was not accepted as she was listed as a beneficiary in her son's ration card. They had realised now that she was living alone and that a separate ration card had to be made in her name.

A day after the lunch that made news, Nitesh Patil, Deputy Commissioner, visited the woman's house along with some other officials. He directed them to take note of her condition and issue her a subsidised cylinder.

Ms. Bayavva was widowed early and raised her two sons by herself. For years, she worked as a farm hand. She was elected as a gram panchayat member on Congress ticket 25 years ago. Post marriage, both her sons began living separately, though they stay close by.

Last week, she was informed by the local BJP office that a Central minister would come to her home for lunch. "This was a week before the visit and I began making preparations. That I did not have a gas cylinder did not cross my mind," she told *The Hindu*. She said she had not requested the leaders who came to her home for a gas cylinder.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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(87 Years)
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:DSU/UHC/SC-HWC/02/2022-23 Dt: 01-07-2022

ಮರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸನ್ 2022-23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ H&WC ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ಷೇಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರ (SC-HWC) ಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾದ Furniture's ಗಳನ್ನು ಆರ್ಹ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ / ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಮೂಲ ತಯಾರಕರು / ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆಯ (KTPP Act) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಘಟನಾವಳಿಗಳು Schedule of Events

Tender Reference Number	DHFWS/DSU/HWC/SC-CPHC-UHC/Furniture /02/2022-23
Date of publishing Tender Document on e-Procurement platform	04-07-2022, 4.00 pm onwards.
Last date for submission of tenders	12-07-2022 4.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bids	13-07-2022 4.30 pm.
Date and time of opening of Financial Bids	Will Intimate later.
Total Tender Value	Rs. 58.72 Lakhs
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1.47 Lakhs
Place of opening of bids	District Health & Family Welfare Office ,DC Office, Haveri Phone No: 08375-297218
Address for communication	District & Health & Family Welfare Office , District Surveillance Office, Haveri. Phone No : 08375-297218

ಸಹಿ/-ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ವೇಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸರ್ವೇಕ್ಷಣಾ ಘಟಕ, ಹಾವೇರಿ.
DIPR/Haveri/123/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

IN BRIEF

Brahmotsavams at Tirumala from Sept. 27

TIRUMALA

The annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara this year will be organised from September 27 to October 5. The privileged darshan facility would be temporarily discontinued. There will be no online booking of cottages between September 30 and October 2.

Maharashtra releases water to Telangana

HYDERABAD

The Godavari water started flowing towards Sriramsagar project in Nizamabad district of Telangana from the upstream Babli Barrage in Maharashtra as the gates of the reservoir were lifted by the authorities of the Maharashtra Water Resources Department in the presence of Irrigation Department engineers of Telangana and Central Water Commission.

BJP gears up for Hyderabad mega meet

Senior leaders have been fanned out to all 119 Assembly seats

NISTULA HEBBAR
HYDERABAD

BJP is going into its National Executive in Hyderabad, with a very aggressive stance against the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) with elections due in the State in 2023.

The party launched a countdown clock to the next polls, quite in the same manner that the YSRCP did in the run up to the 2019 Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh. "522 days are left for the corrupt, dynastic KCR government in Telangana. Then people of this State will say 'bye bye KCR' and welcome the BJP," said party general secretary Tarun Chugh addressing a press meet.

Preceding the two-day national executive in the State, senior leaders of the party had been fanned out to all 119 Assembly seats in the State for a period of two days to get feedback and boost the morale of the party cadre.

The event will start on Saturday around 4 p.m. with an address by party president J.P. Nadda, and will conclude on Sunday around 4 p.m. with an address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi will address a public rally after 5 p.m. in the city. Mr. Chugh said workers from over 35,000 booths across the State will attend the rally by Prime Minister Modi.

All set: Police personnel keeping a vigil at the Parade Grounds, the venue for BJP's meeting, on Friday. •G. RAMAKRISHNA

Elaborate exhibition

At the venue of the meet, the party has put up an elaborate exhibition of the BJP's engagement with the demand for a separate State of Telangana. A framed picture of the Kakinada resolution, where in 1997, a BJP State executive meet had supported the creation of Telangana and plaques talking about the nearly 1,200 who, the party says, lost their lives in the movement for the creation of the State, are part of the exhibition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, a few months ago, addressed a massive public rally in the State squarely taking on the KCR government and the TRS party and singled out "dynastic" and "family ruled" parties in a direct attack.

The TRS has also of late signalled very strongly that it wants to reach out at the national level to like-minded parties to mount a challenge to the BJP.

Nadda holds roadshow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

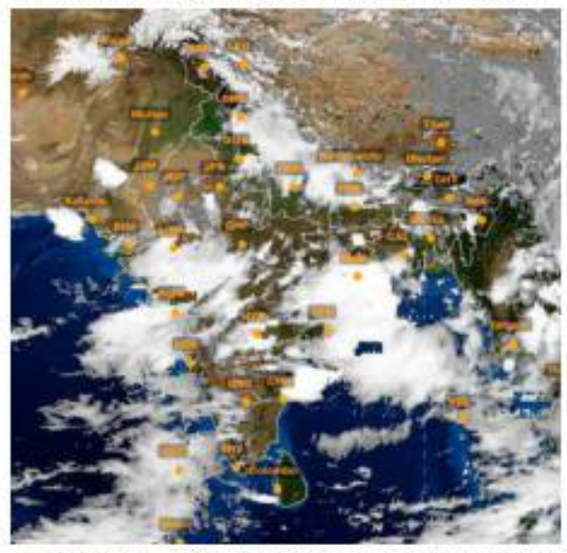
BJP national president J.P. Nadda's roadshow after landing at the Hyderabad international airport started a good three hours late but this did not stop the party cadre to put up a grand show with drum beats and slogans on Friday evening at the Shamshabad town.

Mr. Nadda inaugurated the exhibition put up by the host unit about Telangana culture, Armed Struggle, party growth over the years, Modi government's welfare and development programmes, etc., by lighting the lamp in the presence of organising secretary B.L. Santosh, general secretary Tarun Chugh, and others.

Earlier, he was received with a ceremonial welcome at the airport.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.6	35.2	26.2	Kozhikode	45	27.8	23.8
Ahmedabad	–	37.5	28.2	Kurnool	–	34.2	25.7
Aizawl	–	26.7	21.6	Lucknow	8	35.6	26.0
Allahabad	–	36.0	26.6	Madurai	0.3	38.8	25.1
Bengaluru	3.5	28.7	20.5	Mangaluru	114.5	26.1	23.0
Bhopal	1.8	–	24.0	Mumbai	175	27.5	24.0
Bhubaneswar	–	35.0	27.2	Mysuru	1	–	20.4
Chandigarh	73	33.6	25.6	New Delhi	117	31.9	23.0
Chennai	41	36.2	25.3	Patna	24	33.9	24.3
Coimbatore	43	31.2	21.6	Port Blair	–	31.4	25.9
Dehradun	2	31.1	23.3	Puducherry	–	38.2	26.8
Gangtok	0.8	22.5	17.5	Pune	3.2	29.9	22.2
Goa	113	29.1	23.4	Raipur	1	34.0	26.0
Guwahati	5	35.0	25.8	Ranchi	–	31.7	24.7
Hubballi	–	27.0	22.0	Shillong	0.2	24.4	18.2
Hyderabad	–	33.2	23.8	Shimla	13	25.8	19.2
Imphal	–	30.9	23.0	Srinagar	–	33.9	23.6
Jaipur	39	28.0	23.0	Thiruvananthapuram	14	31.4	23.6
Kochi	41	28.4	23.3	Tiruchi	–	36.7	26.0
Kohima	5	24.6	17.2	Vijayawada	–	36.2	26.5
Kolkata	3	31.9	27.7	Visakhapatnam	3	35.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	40	19	36	48	92	
Bengaluru	23	25	96	–	73	
Chennai	43	22	41	21	31	
Delhi	5	19	27	73	187	
Hyderabad	16	12	22	64	70	
Kolkata	20	14	19	61	82	
Lucknow	10	83	61	43	46	
Mumbai	3	19	171	23	28	
Pune	10	16	81	73	61	
Visakhapatnam	15	42	21	60	102	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Aurangabad, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 277 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BJP, CPI(M) believe in violence, says Rahul

STAFF REPORTER
KALPETTA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Communist Party of India (Marxist) believe in violence.

Addressing a rally organised by the United Democratic Front district committee at Sulthan Bathery in Kerala on Friday in protest against the Supreme Court order prescribing 1 km around protected forests as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), Mr. Gandhi said, his party would prevent the implementation of ESZ around inhabited areas in Wayanad at any cost.

Mr. Gandhi said he had written to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister seeking their urgent intervention to solve the issue amicably, but they were yet to respond.

Speaking to mediapersons after visiting his regional office here, which was vandalised allegedly by a group of Student Federation of India activists a few days ago, Mr. Gandhi said the incident was quite unfortunate but he did not have anger or hostility towards the protesters. "Everywhere in the country you see the idea that violence will resolve problems but violence never resolves problems."

Political tensions escalate in Kerala

Bomb attack on CPI(M) head office sets off protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala on Friday witnessed a day of rising political tensions after a yet-to-be-identified person travelling on a two-wheeler detonated a throw-down type incendiary device against the boundary wall of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] State headquarters at the AKG Centre here late Thursday.

The repercussions of the attack manifested in violence against Congress offices and symbols in at least two districts. Unidentified persons vandalised Indira Gandhi's statue in Alappuzha. They threw stones at the District Congress Committee (DCC) office in Kottayam.

Angry CPI(M) activists demonstrated across Kerala.

In Alappuzha, marchers purportedly raised threatening slogans against Congress workers in the area.

Investigators were pursuing several leads to identify the AKG centre "bomb thrower" to determine the motive behind the attack.

The explosion exacerbated political stresses, with the CPI(M) squarely blaming the Congress for the aggression. The Congress has termed the incident a CPI(M)-orchestrated diversionary tactic to deflect public attention from the scandals dogging the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

Huge rally: A protest march taken out by the CPI(M) against the attack on AKG Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. •S. MAHINSHA

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K. Sudhakaran linked LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan to the "stage-managed" episode. He called the incident a ludicrous face-saving bid.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the groundswell of Opposition to the current disposition had alarmed the LDF. It had sought an escape route in the charade. BJP State president K. Surendran termed the attack a "policing failure".

Amicus curiae to help HC on Section 164

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday appointed an amicus curiae to assist the court to decide on the legal question whether a statement recorded under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is a public document.

The court adjourned to July 11 the hearing on a petition filed by Saritha S. Nair, an accused in solar scam cases, seeking a directive to provide a copy of the statement given by Swapna Suresh, an accused in the diplomatic gold smuggling case, before a subordinate court under Section 164.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the statement given by Swapna Suresh was a public document. Therefore, the petitioner was entitled to get a copy.

Two minor tremors in Kodagu, DK on a single day

No need to panic, says KSNDMC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Two minor tremors were reported in Kodagu within a span of few hours on Friday raising concerns among the public but the authorities have described them as low intensity quakes without potential to cause damage.

The first tremor was reported in Paraje Gram Panchayat limits of Madikeri taluk in Kodagu bordering Dakshina Kannada district at 1:15:22 a.m. and the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said it was of a magnitude of 1.8 on the Richter Scale. The epicentre was 5.2 km WNW of M.Chembu village in Paraje GP limits bordering Kodagu-Dakshina Kannada district, 9.4 km NWN of Karike GP in Madikeri taluk, 11.5 km West of Sampaje hobli in Madikeri taluk and 11 km South East of Sullia taluk in Dakshina Kannada district.

A second tremor of magnitude 2.1 was recorded at 10:47:26 a.m. and the epicentre was at 9.1 km NNW of Karike GP in Madikeri taluk in Kodagu district, 11.6 km West of Sampaje and 11.3 km SE of Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada.

The KSNDMC said that such tremors might be felt up to a maximum radial distance of 20 to 30 km from the epicentre and these type of earthquakes do not create any harm to the local community although slight shaking may be observed locally. "The epicentre falls in Seismic Zone III and the region is void of any structural discontinuities as per the Tectonic map. The community need not panic as the intensity observed is low," said the KSNDMC note.

Tamil Nadu inks MoU for semiconductor park

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Friday between Guidance Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based M/s. IGSS Ventures Pte Ltd, in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, for establishing a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park in the State with an investment and grants of ₹25,600 crore.

Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu and senior officials were present at the event held at the Secretariat. The project is aimed at providing direct employment to over 5,000 people in the next five years, an official press release said.

IGSS Ventures has planned to be part of the India Semiconductor Mission and Project Surya, aimed at reducing air pollution and global warming by cooking with renewable sources.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during the signing of an MoU between Guidance Tamil Nadu and the Singapore-based IGSS Ventures at the Secretariat in Chennai on Friday.

"Tamil Nadu has allocated nine strategic sites, including two in the vicinity of Chennai, to house a semiconductor fab that will be producing three technology nodes of wafers, ranging from 28nm, 45 nm and >=65 nm, and an industry ecosystem infrastructure that hosts semiconductor circuit designers, material suppliers, equipment suppliers, and outsourced semiconductor assembly and test players," IGSS Ventures said in a release.

The consortium plans to start commercial production in two years with an employment potential for 1,500 semi-skilled and skilled persons, it said. The high-tech park would "potentially see additional employment of 25,000 people with jobs generated by the ecosystem partners with an estimated investment of around ₹76,000 crore", it said.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Thennarasu said a facilitation agreement was signed and the details like the location would be worked out. Industries Secretary S. Krishnan said IGSS Ventures had indicated that it would set up a fab unit and a high tech park and there would be a combination of foreign and domestic investors in the project.

Beer sale registers 130% growth in first quarter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka has reported a significant increase in sale of beer with 130% growth in the first quarter of the financial year compared to the corresponding period in 2021-22 when the COVID-19 second wave was raging. In the same period, the excise revenue has increased by 28%.

Statistics released by Excise Department on Friday showed that between April and June this year 104.42 lakh cartons were sold when compared to 45.38 lakh cartons last year, an increase of 59.04 lakh cartons. The sale of beer has been high this year with May and June reporting sale of 34.79 lakh and 32.79 lakh cartons respectively. In comparison, in 2021 May and June, 7.67 lakh and 11.99 lakh cartons had been sold respectively.

Incidentally, the first quarter of 2021-22 was affected by the COVID-19 second wave when a large number of deaths and hospitalisation was reported across the State, and movement of people was restricted while window of liquor sales had been narrowed down besides sales getting restricted to retail sales for some time.

The sale of Indian Made Liquor, on the other hand, grew by 11.03% in the first quarter with a total sale of 171 lakh cartons against 154 lakh cartons sold in the corresponding period last year. As many as 17.01 lakh cartons were sold more this year. In fact, in April the sale of IML had dipped over the previous year as 53.69 lakh cartons were sold compared to 55.99 lakh cartons sold in April 2021. In terms of excise revenue, a total of ₹7,574 crore has been collected this quarter, an increase by 28.23% of ₹1,667 crore over the corresponding period of last financial year when ₹5,906 crore was collected.

Insurance scheme for Kerala govt. staff, pensioners launched

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Stressing the role of the government as a model employer providing social security, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Left Democratic Front (LDF) had been putting forward an alternative policy to the notion that governments should withdraw from welfare activities. He was speaking after launching Medisep, the cashless health insurance scheme for State government employees and pensioners, here on Friday.

Health scheme: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan handing over the medical group insurance card to a beneficiary. •S. MAHINSHA

The scheme is expected to benefit more than 30 lakh people, including government employees, pensioners and their families, teaching and non-teaching staff of aided schools and colleges, and part-time contingent employees. It envisages cashless treatment facility to beneficiaries through an insurance company and a network of empanelled hospitals for a basic package of ₹3 lakh per annum for the policy period of three years.

"This is the next big step in the government's aim towards ensuring universal health coverage and also towards improving the quality of life in Kerala," said Mr. Vijayan.

Study to trace genetic links to Harappan race

Archaeologist to do DNA analysis at CSIR-CCMB

V. GEETANATH
HYDERABAD

"Let us be very clear, there is nothing like racial purity as every population group has got admixed over centuries in South Asia. While there is sufficient archaeological evidence that the people of the Harappan civilisation have dispersed over hundreds of years across the country towards Rajasthan, Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and other places, there has been no genetic study of their mixing with the people of other regional cultures, which came up later," says archaeologist-scientist Vasant Shinde, now with the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) as the Bhatnagar Fellow.

Handling with care: Extreme caution is needed to ensure ancient DNA is not contaminated during excavations.

At CCMB, the renowned archaeologist is going to take up a study "for genetic mutations that have occurred over centuries among these two populations and trace the lineage". "Samples of the ancient DNA and modern-day samples collection will help us do comparative analysis to understand the population composition," said Prof. Shinde, in an exclusive interaction recently at his lab.

Prof. Shinde is at CCMB also because it has the facilities for extracting, analysing and sequencing the ancient DNA from skeletal remains of ancient Indians. This follow-up research will help him get into the next stage of the ground-breaking study on skeletal remains found at the Harappan site of Rakhigarhi village in Haryana under his tutelage.

From the 60 skeletal samples collected from a cemetery in Rakhigarhi, considered to be the biggest Harappan city, ancient DNA was extracted from the remains of a young woman's skeleton. Researchers successfully sequenced the first genome from this sample, combined it with archaeological data, which showed that these people had distinct genetic roots that originated independently.

The archaeologist, having directed a vast number of excavations around the country, from Harappan sites in Gujarat and Haryana to Chalcolithic sites in Madhya Pradesh and the Deccan, to Protohistoric and Early Historic sites in Rajasthan and Maharashtra, intends to analyse skeletal remains of other Harappan settlements and those of contemporary regional settlements at places like Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Inamgaon (Maharastra), Sanauli (Uttar Pradesh) and Ramapuram (Andhra Pradesh).

"There are over 2,000 Harappan sites spread from Kashmir to Maharashtra, whereas its cultural influence is noticed up to Tamil Nadu. Our objective is to see how the gene mutations have taken place and changes that may have occurred," he elaborates.

Taming the tiger

BJP deflected attention from the defection by allowing Shinde retain Sena identity

The formation of a new government in Maharashtra on Thursday, led by Eknath Shinde, followed a nail-biting and unique script. The BJP conceded the CM's post to Mr. Shinde who led a revolt in the Shiv Sena to unseat Uddhav Thackeray. Former CM Devendra Fadnavis has settled for the post of Deputy CM. The political churn in Maharashtra is unlikely to settle with this, however. When the Shiv Sena, the Congress and the NCP formed an unlikely alliance, the MVA, to form the government in 2019, it was seen as a new possibility of politics by some and crass opportunism by many. As it turned out, Mr. Thackeray, son of Sena founder Bal Thackeray, could not manage the turmoil that his daring to experiment triggered within the party. Initially, it had appeared that the provincialism represented by the Sena might act as a counter to the totalising politics of Hindutva. The MVA's unravelling shows that the BJP's ideology, backed with instruments of state power, and the capacity to mobilise resources, could railroad regional politics when the situation is favourable. This is one sabotage of a government that has a credible ideological defence – Mr. Shinde, and his BJP backers have argued that the Sena-BJP alliance had fought together in 2019, with Hindutva as their bonding ideology. That Mr. Shinde unseated Mr. Thackeray to uphold the people's will and fidelity to the ideology is a strong argument. For all his mild demeanour and inclusive image, Mr. Thackeray could not command sufficient chutzpah to remake the Sena. The assumption that the Sena could be re-engineered into a benign political outfit seems to have been misplaced. And he failed to notice the resentment that was bubbling up right under his nose.

The Maharashtra episode proves yet again the BJP's capacity to play the long game. Soon after the patriarch Thackeray's passing in 2012, the BJP's plans to gain an upper hand in its relations with the Sena began to roll out; by 2014 the party was ahead of the Sena. By winning a consecutive election in 2019, in alliance with the Sena, it reinforced its position. All this should have tempered the ambitions of the Thackerays – which by then included a third-generation scion, Aaditya. When they claimed power by forming the MVA, the BJP harnessed the resentment among Sena MLAs, finally toppling the Thackerays. But the BJP and the Shinde-led Sena faction have been careful not to bruise the sentiments of the Sena cadre that still holds the founder's family in high esteem. Which faction will win the legal battle to own the party name and symbol and which one will win the hearts of the party workers are two different questions. It is not impossible that the Sena could dissipate and its cadres dissolve into the BJP. The concession of the CM's post to Mr. Shinde is not an act of political altruism, but cold strategy. Having deflected the potential hurt and anger of the Sainiks for now, the BJP will now wait for the best time for its next move. The next episode of the Maharashtra saga will then play out.

Reset mode

GST's metamorphosis into a truly Good and Simple Tax needs more Centre-States dialogue

The GST Council met over two days this week – its first 'regular' meeting after a nine-month break – with much on its plate, stemming from four ministerial groups' recommendations to fix various aspects of the indirect tax regime that remains a work in progress five years on. It ratified three of the four reports, put off one for further deliberations based on concerns flagged by a State, with a commitment to reassemble and resolve the impasse holistically in little over a month. A new ministerial panel is being tasked with figuring out the long-pending constitution of an appellate tribunal for GST disputes, to move ahead. Based on an 'interim' report of a panel to rationalise tax rates, exemptions have been scrapped on several items and rates altered for others to correct inverted duty structures. This may translate into higher prices on many goods and services (and reductions for a few) from July 18, although their impact on inflation is difficult to ascertain. However, a larger restructuring of the GST's multiple rates' structure, with an increase in levies to bolster revenues that have fallen short of expectations, partly due to rate cuts earlier effected as electoral tools, has been put off. With inflation expected to remain buoyant, that exercise may have to wait longer.

Apart from the fine print of the Council's decisions, which include tighter norms on the horizon for registering new firms and closing of tax evasion loopholes, there is a more critical takeaway. That the deliberations were constructive and not combative, especially amid the brewing trust deficit between the Centre and States in the past few meetings and the prolonged pause since it last met, bodes well for the necessary next steps to make GST deliver on its original hopes. Not a single member raised the recent Supreme Court order that some States believed had upheld their rights against 'arbitrary imposition' of the Centre's decisions in the Council. Moreover, over a dozen States brought up an 'extra agenda item' – their anxieties about the sunset of assured revenue growth from July 1, on which even Ministers from BJP-ruled States spoke up to seek the continuance of GST Compensation for some years. That States are no longer driven by party whips in this critical forum, should enrich the quality of dialogue and outcomes. That the Centre 'heard them out' and left the issue open, unlike the last Council meet when its response was akin to an outright 'No', is most refreshing. Taking a clear call, one way or the other, on continuing this support, will be ideal for the Centre and States to plan their fiscal math better. Just as sustaining and nurturing this fledgling federal compact is critical to make the GST work better for all, sooner rather than later.

Clear signals the 'fringe' ought to read

With three of the most visible faces in the country highlighting India's inclusivity and tolerance, the message is clear

VINAY KAURA

In a period of just one week, we have had three important public statements being made by three of the most important government functionaries in India that have emphasised India's stronger credentials as a secular democratic polity. The context is the reactions to the controversial remarks on the Prophet made by a (now former) spokesperson of the ruling party. In the first instance, the External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, stated that the negative reactions of many Muslim countries over the controversial remarks on the Prophet "... was an issue where the sensibilities and the sensitivities of people were impacted". Next was the National Security Adviser (NSA), Ajit Doval, who candidly accepted that the controversy has damaged India's global reputation, but also arguing that "India has been projected or some disinformation has been spread against India – which is far from the reality. Probably there is a need for us to engage them [Muslim world] and talk to them and convince them".

An 'inclusive upbringing'

Most importantly, we had the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, mentioning in his blog his childhood friend, one Mr. Abbas Ramsada, to highlight his (the Prime Minister's) mother's selfless nature. Reminiscing their childhood, the Prime Minister mentioned Mr. Abbas having stayed with Mr. Modi's family "after the untimely death of my father's close friend who stayed in a nearby village" (i.e., Mr. Abbas's father) . Though the Prime Minister did not directly address the controversy over the derogatory remarks made about the Prophet, the very reference to Mr. Abbas is an indirect acknowledgement that more damage should not be done to India's image as a country that celebrates its diversity and plurality. That Mr. Abbas was a part of his (the Prime Minister's) household, that Mr. Modi's mother took care of Mr. Abbas just like her own children, and that she also prepared favourite dishes during the festival of Eid must be seen as emphasising Mr. Modi's inclusive upbringing and the level of societal integration between Hindus and Muslims in India. And, finally, it was the Supreme Court of India that held the discredited former spokesperson "single-handedly responsible" for igniting emotions while asking her to "apologise to the country".

Then there was the timing of the diplomatic firestorm over the remarks: India's Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu was to reach Qatar on the last leg of a three-nation tour, and Iran's Foreign Minister was to arrive on his first official visit to India. The Modi government has also taken remarkable initiatives to improve ties with many West Asian/Gulf countries, in part to ensure energy security and to attract investment from there in the infrastructure sector. But there is another dimension that should not be forgotten.

Whether Mr. Jaishankar was hinting at global jihadist organisations or Pakistan's security establishment is not known, but he did acknowledge that there are elements desperate to "fish in troubled waters". It needs to be mentioned that immediately after the controversy erupted, the Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) issued a letter that has warned of suicide bombings in many Indian cities to protect the honour of the Prophet. The language it has used to denigrate the Indian government illustrates its efforts that are aimed at a transnationalisation of local political tensions and conflicts.

Then and now

Even before and after Independence, communal riots have occurred across India with disturbing regularity. But here, the Indian government did not have to apologise to the Muslim world as the issues triggering the riots were seen to be local. While it has been relatively easier for sympathisers from the Hindu religious right wing to brand Indian Muslims as anti-nationals and to exhort them to become more nationalist in their world view, it is now quite difficult to move away after indecorous remarks were made against the most respected figure in Islam. The Prophet unites all Muslims, irrespective of their political, ideological, sectarian, ethnic and linguistic differences. The mobilising potential of this issue is truly 'transnational'.

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We never forget to mention that Muslims are closely integrated in Indian society, and have never empathised with jihadist organisations and their transnational aims. Even in these organisations, foreign fighters from India are disproportionately outnumbered by their American, French or British counterparts or by people from countries where there is a sizeable Muslim population. While Indian Muslims may have taken to streets protesting the persecution of their co-religionists in many conflict zones across the world, they have also done so against terrorism perpetrated in the name of Islam.

While the social, political and economic concerns of India's Muslims have been too local to have any reverberations outside India, their religious anxieties have also been too Indian to have any resonance in any transnational organisation, be it Islamist or Jihadist. And it must remain so because the transnationalisation of issues pertaining to Indian Islam will always be challenging for the Government, while also making Indian Muslims extremely vulnerable to the political use of Islam, known as Islamism.

Islamism, jihadist landscape

Various scholars have convincingly held that Islamism is not about Islam or Islamic faith, but it is about a remaking of the political order. Islamism thrives on a transnationalisation of issues pertaining to the Islamic faith and practices, which are not a monolith. 'Religionisation of politics' and 'politicisation of religion' is the root of Islamism, the same perilous politics that led to the creation of Pakistan. And, most disturbingly, what unites Islamists and Jihadists is their vision of a Sharia-based Islamic state as a desired political order. Muslims have always found the charm and the influence of India's constitutional order premised on secular nationalism more powerful than the fatal attraction of radical Islamism. Many experts will still underplay the threat posed by the global jihadist movement, arguing that neither AQIS nor the Islamic State (ISIS) has gained any traction in India. Fortunately, that is true since there has been no noticeable increase in the number of radicalised recruits despite the growing sense of political alienation among Indian Muslims. Can this make us complacent? The ISIS is also severely damaged, its various Indian franchises and offshoots do not pose any significant threat, and its capacity to draw recruits in India has also become questionable. But the AQIS would like to capitalise on the ideological vacuum in the regional jihadist landscape, particularly after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan.

Conflict ecosystem

The Taliban's relationship with al Qaeda has often been marked by mutual suspicion. But despite many complexities, they have often adopted successful ways to cooperate for mutual strategic and tactical benefits. Even when the Taliban entered the Doha talks with the United States for America's eventual exit from Afghanistan, the two groups continued to coordinate till the end. After the Taliban's takeover, al Qaeda's jubilation has been understandable. Notwithstanding the fact that their relationship will remain fraught, they will still do their best to cooperate and coordinate.

Though it is unclear how the Taliban will stop al Qaeda from using Afghan territory for transnational jihadist operations, Kabul's new 'Islamist' rulers are nonetheless unlikely to restrain al Qaeda's regional ambitions, due to their inability or unwillingness. This makes the Taliban a highly suspect or unreliable partner in regional or global efforts to counter al Qaeda – we all know that the Afghanistan-Pakistan region has been the birthplace of many jihadist organisations including al Qaeda. The Pakistan factor too comes into play as Pakistan's security establishment has been a long-time patron of the Afghan Taliban. There is also the kind of role Islamabad is expected to play by Washington in post-exit Afghanistan. While the Pakistan state itself seems to be bearing the brunt of the Afghan Taliban's success in Afghanistan with the reorganisation and reinvigoration of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the temptation will never dissipate in Rawalpindi to manipulate the complex jihadist landscape of the Afghanistan-Pakistan region to meet its own geopolitical needs.

The Taliban, al Qaeda and the Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K) are three of the most important Islamist groups operating in Afghanistan's conflict ecosystem. Though the Taliban have consolidated their hold over the Afghan state since coming to power, their continued relationship with al Qaeda makes strategic sense for them because of the all-important dimension of collective effort. Both can effectively band together to combat their common foe, ISIS or the IS-K. Thus, despite growing international pressure, the Taliban regime does not have any incentive to undermine its own limited capabilities to counter the IS-K threat by either expelling or immobilising al Qaeda who have been its partners.

Al Qaeda's ability to navigate Afghanistan's jihadist landscape may or may not be of major interest to the Afghan Taliban or other western countries, but it is very important for India. Opinion remains divided as to whether India can be a direct target of al Qaeda or an indirect one, with most opinion tending toward the second view, i.e., India is secondary to their real struggle. Nevertheless, it is the possibility of the Taliban and al Qaeda jointly waging a fight against the IS-K in the same operational battlespace that should alarm Indian authorities. This also explains India's recent diplomatic efforts to engage the Afghan Taliban and maintain its presence in Afghanistan.

The transnationalisation of local tensions and the Islamisation of local politics have always exacerbated deadly conflicts. At a time when three of the most visible faces of the Indian government and the highest judicial institution of the country have directly and indirectly highlighted India's civilisational heritage of inclusivity and tolerance, as well as the non-discriminatory nature of the current political regime, it must be hoped that the 'fringe' elements in the ruling party will be forced to abandon their Islamophobic vocabulary and religious prejudices.

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Recommended, a dose of humour and democracy

As the virus of totalitarianism begins to infect India, the immune system of the Republic needs to be reinvigorated

FAISAL C.K.

Humour is ubiquitous; it bursts out even in the face of death. Niccolò Machiavelli, Italian political mastermind, cracked a joke before his last breath: "I desire to go to Hell and not to Heaven. In the former I shall enjoy the company of popes, kings and princes, while in the latter are only beggars, monks and apostles!" As a double-edged sword, humour is capable of inducing light-hearted moments and heavy thoughts. It is a mighty weapon in political and social discourse, an example being Socrates and his subtle and scorching critiques of decaying Athenian society and politics.

The danger today

Like the glory that was Greece fell apart, the wonder that is India is in danger of imploding. India's constitutional cornerstone, which is the Rock of Gibraltar of the Republic, is being shaken. The darkness of totalitarianism seems to be falling upon the edifice of our Republic. We can either cry over the evidence of the downfall of the beloved country or crack jokes to detonate the darkness.

Arvind Narrain, in his book, *India's Undeclared Emergency: Constitutionalism and the Politics of Resistance*, is of the opinion that India is slouching towards a totalitarian future. He observes: "the ambitions of a totalitarian government are far wider and its abilities far deeper than those of an authoritarian one. A totalitarian rule goes beyond retaining total control over the State to trying to 'politicize the masses' and shaping individuals in accordance with its ideology. It draws its strength and support not just from its control over the levers of the State but also from organizational fronts which work at the societal level, aiming to transform society in terms of its ideology. A combination of these factors – of having an ideology as well as many organizational fronts – results in totalitarianism having an 'appeal', compared with the 'generally passive acceptance of authoritarian regimes'." India experienced an authoritarian regime during the Emergency. But the Republic's metamorphosis into a totalitarian political system is a dark novelty that demands innovative paraphernalia for the politics of resistance.

In her *Origins of Totalitarianism*, Hannah Arendt discerned two contradictory popular responses towards totalitarianism – a mood of 'reckless optimism' and a belief in 'unavoidable doom'. Arvind Narrain points out that in "India today, where the dominant mood in progressive circles is hardly one of 'reckless optimism', what one is left with is 'reckless despair'. To find hope in the midst of this despair is difficult." Here lies the weightiness of humour. Humour can inspire hope, as hope is a powerful thing. It inspires us to do the impossible and helps us carry on during difficult times.

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Three days after the Emergency, there was this obituary published among the classified advertisements in *The Times of India*, on June 28, 1975. It read: "O'Cracy, D.E.M., beloved husband of T. Ruth, loving father of L.I. Bertie, brother of Faith, Hope and Justicia, expired on June 26." Journalist Ashok Mahadevan, then 26, punched the authoritarian regime with an obituary of 22 words that mourned the sad demise of democracy, along with its allied ideals of truth, liberty, faith, hope and justice. The death of democracy was duly dated in 1975.

In our times, constitutional democracy is inching towards a persistent vegetative state, a death without a date of demise, an obituary, mourning, and a funeral. 'Operation Lotus', a machination to torpedo elected governments in States, has become a quotidian affair and elections and democratic civility, in danger of becoming a black comedy. The citizenry cannot laugh at the Gallows speech of constitutional democracy; nor can it be a silent spectator.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide." He exposed the vanity and the pomp of the British Empire at the cost of India's destitution by explaining why he had so little clothes on. In this example attributed to an event around the Round Table Conference in London, he said: 'The king had enough [clothes] on for both of us".

The ingredients needed

Anarchism and democracy are the anti-theses and antidotes for totalitarianism. Anarchism conceives the state to be unnecessary and any form of government undesirable. It presumes that man is basically a rational, honest and just animal. Therefore, if society is organised properly, then there will be no room for any kind of coercion. It is a utopian ideology indeed but it has some practical relevance.

An anarchic vision of society is non-violent, self-managed and non-hierarchical. Anarchist thinkers hold dear to the ideal of democracy – rule by the people. "The State represents violence in a concentrated and organized form. The individual has a soul, but as the State is a soulless machine, it can never be weaned from violence to which it owes its very existence," said Mahatma Gandhi, who was a blissful anarchist. Democracy would be perfected by imbibing some idyllic dreams from anarchism.

Anarchism and democracy espouse humour; whereas totalitarianism demands the silence of the grave. Works like The Good Soldier Švejk, by the Czech anarchist author, Jaroslav Hašek, which is a hilarious satire of military life, ridicules war and the state. So is Ivan the Fool by Leo Tolstoy who was a Christian anarchist, a pacifist who renounced the state as violent and deceitful. Charlie Chaplin's film, *The Great Dictator*, and Sacha Baron Cohen's film, *The Dictator* (2012), are black comedy films that underscore that humour can mercilessly humiliate totalitarian and authoritarian despots and debunk their larger-than-life image.

The virus of totalitarianism which is highly fatal has almost infected India. The immune system of the Republic, the constitutional ideals and structure, has to fight off the virus. The antiviral medicines, a few souring pills of Gandhian anarchism at a minimal dose, and the sweet syrup of humour and democracy at maximum dose, would be an advisable course of medication.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Manipulative politics

The political drama in Maharashtra has been termed a masterstroke by the top leadership of the BJP, but in reality this is a kind of manipulative politics so well perfected by the party over the years to destabilise State governments ruled by the Opposition parties. People must ensure that authoritarianism does not take root.

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

Tragedy at San Antonio

The tragic case in the United States – of the Texan migrant deaths – is an emphatic reminder of the dangers migrants face; the risks have only got higher as law enforcement and smugglers use increasingly sophisticated methods to outwit each other. The Malta boat tragedy and a case of an Indian family freezing while attempting to cross the Canada-U.S. border are hard to forget. Justice, stability and more equitable distribution of global wealth could solve this vexed problem.

GREGORY FERNANDES,
Mumbai

Leprosy fight

Multidrug therapy is vital for the control of leprosy, from multi-bacillary cases that are carriers of the disease. Clofazimine is one of the combinations of multidrug therapy. So, the lack of the drug may increase the prevalence of leprosy from endemic zones. Silent manifestations of the disease will spell a setback for public health activities, surveillance, and treatment. There is good manpower but what affects the leprosy eradication programme is often a failure to deliver MDT to field-level staff.

Dr. E. SUBBARAYAN,
Sakkarapuram, Gingee, Tamil Nadu

Keeping head above water in Silchar

Since the sudden flooding that began on June 19, residents have been scrambling for dry land, food and clean water. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on the ferocity of the floods in Assam, the blame game on what caused them, and the palpable anxiety in Barak Valley about the days ahead

Young boys who were helping transport flood-affected people in Silchar town take a break to eat lunch at College Road in Silchar, Cachar district of Assam on June 30. (Below): Flood-affected people desperately try to get drinking water in Silchar town. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

On June 20, as the water level rose, Dipankar Dhar waded past a refrigerator, an LPG cylinder and scores of vintage books – all floating around his waist – after descending from the first floor of his three-storey house on College Road. A rescue boat was ready. Dhar and his family exited the house with a few clothes and basic necessities, climbed onto the boat, and sailed to the edge of Park Road. This was the nearest "island" in Silchar, a town where only about 10% of the land had been spared the sudden flooding close to midnight of June 19.

The Dhars were among the first to check into a hotel on Park Road. "We could have stayed on the first floor like many others marooned in our locality. But our kitchen on the ground floor went 6 ft under water and there was no way we could cook or organise our food," said Dhar, a contractor based in Kolkata who had come home recently to settle a property dispute.

Shyamsundar Roy, a businessman, and Moushumi checked into the same hotel with their eight-month-old baby three days later. They had been banking on the water receding, as has often been the case with Silchar, within a day or two from the ground floor of their four-storey building on Bibekananda Road. "We shifted the ground floor tenants to the second floor and hoped for the best," said Roy. "But it was becoming unbearable. After the inverter battery drained out, for three nights we had no power. We hired a boat to a point near the hotel, a 10-minute drive from our house on normal days. And here we are, on a forced staycation."

Unlike most Silchar residents who were taken by surprise, Hemanta Bora said he was used to floods back home in a northern Assam village. The family of this former soldier, who handles security at an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation facility near Silchar, decided not to move from their rented, third-floor house. "We kept saving the inverter battery to charge our mobile phones and I waded chest deep occasionally to get provisions. My office had my family shifted to a hotel after nine days because my service was needed at the facility," said Bora.

Never before had the hotels around Gandhi Bagh been booked for 10 days at a stretch by locals. "All our 21 rooms are booked but we are managing with less than 50% staff, many of whom are marooned. But we are only providing a few items on the menu because there is no one to prepare the fancy dishes," said Amit Patoa, the manager of a starred hotel. "It would be wrong to say we are making the most of people's misery. We have provided discounts on room rent and we have not charged extra for food despite having to buy fish, vegetables and everything else at 200%-300% more than the usual prices."

Silchar, the headquarters of Cachar district, is the hub of the landlocked Barak Valley comprising three districts in Assam. Silchar got hit after landslides damaged the arterial railway line through Dima Hasao at 56 points in mid-May. A highway through Dima Hasao was similarly affected. The only other highway through Meghalaya connecting Barak Valley to the rest of the country was cut off less than a month later. It was made usable in about a week, but perishable items landed in Silchar rotten because the trucks had been stranded in Meghalaya. To make matters worse, 30%-70% of goods of most shops and warehouses in the town had been submerged way too long to be of use. As of July 1, 173 people had died due to the floods and landslide in Assam. Of Silchar's 28 wards, 26 were badly flooded. More than 1,00,000 vehicles had been damaged. Property damage was estimated to be over ₹1,000 crore, said the Assam Assam Minister for Public Health Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Tourism, Jayanta Malla Baruah.

Thirsty people in flood-hit areas

No one in schoolteacher Bipul Sinha's family had any appetite to eat on the first-floor house in Bhagatpur locality. They were barely 1.5 m above the water level. In just five days, the ochre coloured water that the overflowing Barak River had brought had turned a dull black and was stinking. Bathing was a luxury as there was no electricity to draw water from the underground tank. The family's stock of drinking water had run out three days after the floods. "You can survive without electricity and even food, but not water," Sinha said. "On the fifth day, I bought a dozen one-litre bottles of water at a premium, but it was peanuts compared to the ₹1,000 I had to pay the boatman one way to fetch it."

Barely 900 metres from his house, on College Road, a 'boat stand' replaced the local taxi and rickshaw stand soon after the area turned, as Sinha put it, into "a sea". Boatmen Rahamatullah and Gopal Das justified the charge – ₹100 per 100 m – to make up for their inability to fish or ferry people across the Barak River for a living.

Most used boats, or plyboards tied on tubes of truck tyres, or slabs of thermocol stitched in plastic sacks to fetch water at ₹500 for a 20-litre canister that would normally cost ₹70. Some boiled the floodwaters to survive.

The situation eased after three days when individuals, local NGOs and the Cachar district administration began distributing water along with biscuits, candles and matchboxes. Manipur and Mizoram pitched in while boat-mounted water purifiers were placed strategically. There were a few like Ajit Das, an optical store owner, who ferried water on his two-wheeler from his house on Public School Road for friends in need. "My house was not inundated and I tried to help the only way I could, by providing water to the nearest point from where my friends and relatives could collect it," he said. Saurabh Chakraborty, a member of Prayash NGO, said the Barak River came visiting as a great leveller: "Everywhere, owners of swanky cars and tall buildings as well as the homeless were begging for water."

Problems in providing relief

Water and relief material did not reach people due to non-availability but alleged mismanagement, many said. Samin Sen Deka, a reporter for a Guwahati-based TV channel, said relief did not reach his marooned locality for almost a week. He watched helplessly as his two young daughters cried due to hunger.

At the Silchar Government Higher Secondary School near the Cachar Deputy Commissioner's office, about 500 inmates from the flooded Dhakaiya Colony complained about getting less than what was assured. "The board outside says we are supposed to get 5 kg of rice and 300 ml of mustard oil per head. We are getting 1 kg of rice and barely a few spoons of oil to cook. And how can 3 litres of (packaged) milk suffice for 15 people, many of whom are children," asked Seema Biswas.

Few perhaps know about relief distribution better than Jaichand Das, a truck driver whose family of 12 has been living in a 10-wheel truck parked near a railway level crossing at Ramnagar on the outskirts of Silchar. In May, when the first flood of lower intensity struck Silchar and Cachar district beyond, he had driven his truck for the district administration to distribute relief material to the flood-hit people. "We swam to safety when our house in Durganagar went under water save the tin roof. Rukman Singh, the owner of the truck I drive to transport food grains (from the Food Corporation of India warehouse near Silchar), was kind enough to let us stay in the truck, but we are disappointed that the government could not provide any kind of relief to us. Had it not been for the Army, we would have died of thirst," he said. The Army camp at Masimpur near Silchar remained inundated for more than a week as did parts of the Assam Rifles camp in the town.

"Whatever relief is being provided is by the locals themselves," said Trinamool Congress MP Sushmita Dev, whose house on Station Road was inundated for a few days. "There has been total mismanagement of the situation. We have seen floods since childhood, but there was never any party politics during disasters until now. The BJP (local MP and MLAs belong to the Bharatiya Janata Party) has taken control of the operations and made a mess of it. They have to let the district administration work." Neither Silchar MP Rajdeep Roy nor Silchar MLA Dipayan Chakraborty took calls, but local BJP leader Anita Choudhury denied that the party was "branding" relief material provided by the district authorities.

Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli admitted the district machinery took time to respond, but said that was because most officials and employees were themselves marooned. "We lost no time in requisitioning dumpers and excavators, the only vehicles that could be used in most areas, to transport relief, move doctors and help the police patrol vulnerable areas," she said.

Much of the patrolling on dumpers at night was to assure the townspeople that the law-and-order situation was being taken care of, said Cachar's Superintendent of Police, Ramandeep Kaur Dhillon. "We have received SOS calls about burglaries in shops and houses closed for days. But there has not been a single case reported. People have panicked because the nights are pitch black without electricity."

More than 4,000 transformers in Silchar and the district beyond were under water for about a week, leading to extensive power cuts.

Blaming Mahisha Beel

With a population of more than 2 lakh, the 27 sq. km Silchar town is protected by a long embankment on the Barak River, the lifeline of Barak Valley. At about 7 p.m. on June 19, the district authority issued a statement warning residents that the town could be flooded because some miscreants had cut a channel on the embankment at Bethukandi about 3 km from the heart of the town.

Ajit Das had been tipped off earlier by Ashis Das, a resident of one of the villages in the Bethukandi area and the mason who had built his optical shop at Rangirkhari. "I stacked most of the spectacles on higher shelves and placed the inverter and battery on a stack of chairs. I warned the shops in the area but none took it seriously," Ajit Das said.

Tapu Pal, who runs a pharmacy near Rangirkhari, wished he had heeded the warning. Floodwaters destroyed the medicines on the lower shelves but the loss he suffered was much less than what the maternity hospital opposite his store faced. It is closed indefinitely.

The flood, which struck at a force, killed 16 people in the town while three remained untraced. The scale of devastation struck the people when a couple of bodies wrapped in polythene were found floating, possibly disposed of as the town's cremation and burial grounds were submerged. Struck by this, Kumar Kanti Das, a popular doctor, temporarily allowed his Charitable Hospital ground to be used for cremation.

By the time the people realised what had hit them, a narrative had been built that the residents of Mahisha Beel had cut the embankment at Bethukandi to drain out excess water into the Barak River that flows down from Manipur and meanders into Bangladesh. The embankment topped by a partly metalled road is a barrier between the river and the *beel* (wetland). The belief became stronger when Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who visited the town thrice in a week, said the Silchar disaster was man-made. Bethukandi is a largely Muslim-inhabited area with a few Hindu pockets.

Arijit Aditya, the editor of Silchar-published Bengali daily *Bartalipi*, found something amiss in the district authority's June 19 warning. While accusing some miscreants of causing the breach, it said the river water could inundate low-lying areas of the town despite efforts to repair the damaged stretch of the embankment. "For years, the people of Mahisha Beel have been under water for nine months. Why should they suddenly cut the embankment? There could be a case of incompetent officials shifting the blame on the villagers," he said.

"How can anyone say the locals cut the embankment? Water was flowing out of Mahisha Beel towards the river through a drain near the point of the embankment where a sluice gate has been lying half-constructed for months," said Gopal Das, the president of the Bagardor Borjurai Gram Panchayat, in May when the water level of Mahisha Beel was higher than that of the Barak River. The locals, he said, informed the authorities concerned about the 'cut' on the embankment. On May 23, Debabrata Pal, the executive engineer of the Water Resources Department, lodged an FIR against unknown miscreants under Section 427 (mischief causing damage) of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

"Mahisha Beel was a small wetland. The excess water from Mahisha Beel used to drain out through Rangirkhal, Singirkhal and Longaikhal on the other side of the town. But encroachment constricted these *khals* (canals) and kept inundating our farmlands," said Shaheen Hussain Laskar, a former farmer living under a makeshift tent on the embankment. "To say we breached the embankment to teach the townspeople a lesson for making us suffer all these years is a bit much. The strong current of the river washed away the weakened embankment around the under-construction sluice gate."

He is not off the mark. 'Barak Riverscape: Ecological status and Trends', a document of the Wildlife Institute of India under a project of the National River Conservation Directorate, found the Barak River system fragmented by the construction of four dams, six medium irrigation projects, three hydroelectric projects and barrages. The report says the 900-km river provides several ecosystem services but is "threatened due to developmental activities in its basin, increased water abstraction, sand mining, heavy metal pollution, increase in invasive species and climate change".

The basin has undergone considerable land-use changes in the last three decades. Between 1988 and 2018, the water area decreased by 23.48% while the urban area increased by 73.76%, and the riverbed increased by 134.62% although a dredging project was undertaken in 2018.

"Without going into the details, it would suffice to say that the need to construct the Bethukandi sluice gate to let the excess water of Mahisha Beel drain out into the Barak was felt long ago," Aditya said. "The *beel* became a milch cow during the Congress regime through invisible schemes until former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi sanctioned the sluice gate. The work on that stagnated after the BJP won the elections in 2016 and Silchar has now paid for that."

The way forward

S.R. Swami, a retired chief engineer of the Water Resources Department, said Silchar needs many sluice gates with proper maintenance, regular upkeep of the embankments and better risk assessment besides overhauling of the drainage system. "Even if Barak Valley does not experience rain, heavy showers in the hills around make it vulnerable. And the planning has to be long term if such a disaster has to be avoided," he said. The Bethukandi breach could not have been the only cause of the unprecedented flooding, he added.

The mindset of officials and the political class needs to change too, said Mantu Das, a Silchar-origin engineering designer now working with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. In 2016, he had proposed a project under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation to bail the town out of its waterlogging and sewage issues. He had even organised a workshop for the town planners. "What they wanted was stop-gap arrangements, not elaborate projects to separate the sewage system from the rainwater drainage system," said Das. "They failed to understand that one has to study the hydrology of the valley as well as the hills around and analyse rainfall and flood patterns in these areas over more than a century besides factoring in climate change to come up with a set-up that can last for at least 100 years."

Such studies could be facilitated if the Assam University in Silchar has a centre for disaster management, noted Parthankar Choudhury, who teaches ecology and environmental science at the university. "This centre, the proposal for which was submitted to the University Grants Commission, should be a top priority in view of the unprecedented floods in Silchar," he said.

For the time being, the focus is on preventing post-flood water-borne diseases, with medical teams fanning out to check the health of relief camp inmates and those marooned in their homes. Help is also pouring in from organisations such as Dharmanagar and Kanchanpur Chemist and Druggist Association in adjoining Tripura.

For those who were forced to leave home, a bigger worry is how soon they can go back with the Barak River starting to rise again: on July 1, the gauge at the town's Annapurna Ghat recorded 19.87 m after dipping to 19.85 m (0.02 m above the danger level) on June 30. The fear that the gaping hole in the embankment at Bethukandi could cause another flood is palpable, although the district authorities have sought to assure people that the repair work would be completed fast.

"Finding labourers who are charging ₹1,000 per day instead of the normal ₹300-400 to clean the house is tough. Tougher still is to get clean water to wash the muck and filth left behind by the floodwaters," Dipankar Dhar said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Uddhav questions BJP's alliance with Sena faction

At the press conference at the party headquarters, Sena Bhavan, Mr. Thackeray said: "You [BJP] are saying that you made a Sena worker the Chief Minister. But let me tell you, this CM is not of Sena. You cannot have Sena's CM by sidelining the party," Mr. Thackeray said. He was referring to the BJP's claim that it ensured that a Sena worker like Mr. Shinde who worked on the Hindutva principles of Sena founder the late Bal Thackeray was made the CM.

"The duo that was sworn in yesterday would have been in power in 2019 itself. That was the agreement between me and Amit Shah. Had they followed this, BJP would have had its CM for at least two and half years. Now, BJP will not have its CM for the total of five years. I don't know what that party has achieved," he said.

Objecting to the new government's first decision to push for the Metro car shed at Aarey forest, a decision which was cancelled by the previous government led by him, Mr. Thackeray said: "You backstabbed me, but I request you to not vent that anger on the people by giving Aarey land to Metro. This is hazardous for the environment and poses threat of encroachment."

Since both the State and Central governments were now run by the BJP, the Kanjur Marg land allotted for the project by the previous government could be utilised without court proceedings, he said.

Commenting on party MLAs deserting him to join rebels, Mr. Thackeray said people vote for an MLA who belonged to a particular party. "Balasaheb [Sena founder] used to say that the people should have the choice to recall their representative. Looking at the recent developments, it is time to bring the Act giving the people that right," he said.

Cong. opposes election of new Maharashtra Assembly Speaker

Party cites Governor's letter saying it was not possible due to a pending court case

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The new Maharashtra government under the leadership of rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde is unlikely to get a smooth start as the scheduled election of the Speaker is being opposed by the Opposition Congress on the basis of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's letter where he had said the election was not possible due to a pending case in court.

Get-together: Congress leaders and MLAs meet Uddhav Thackeray at his residence in Mumbai on Thursday. • PTI

Old example

"We do not understand the urgency to call a special session of the Assembly on Sunday. Moreover, a case regarding the Speaker's election is pending in the Supreme Court and when we were in the government, the Governor was telling us for months that since the matter is subjudice, he cannot call the election of the Speaker. In that case, how can he allow the election now for the new government?" asked senior Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat.

Narvekar is candidate

Meanwhile, a special session of the Legislature would be held on July 3 and 4 where the Speaker's election will be held on the first day. The ruling BJP and rebel Sena alliance has already announced young BJP MLA Rahul Narvekar as the candidate for the Speaker's post. Mr. Narvekar on Friday submitted his nomination for the post. The Opposition group is yet to announce the name.

The tripartite MVA had appointed the Congress' Nana Patole as the Speaker after coming to power in 2019. A year later, Mr. Patole resigned in February 2021 to become the president of the State Congress unit. Since then, the MVA had been demanding to announce the election date for the Speaker's post to which Mr. Koshyari responded negatively.

In due course, the State government amended the rules to elect the new Speaker through voice vote and show of hands instead of secret vote. The then Opposition BJP opposed the move and its MLA Girish Mahajan approached the Supreme Court claiming that the amendment to the rules was brought illegally and arbitrarily.

Mr. Koshyari had referred to the petition denying permission to hold the election saying the matter is *sub-judice*.

'Shiv Sena is where Thackerays are'

Splitting won't weaken party, says Raut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Sanjay Raut

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said a new government in Maharashtra under Eknath Shinde has been formed by the BJP with a group of MLAs that split the party, and asserted that the Sena is where the Thackerays are.

Taking a dig at Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Mr. Raut said had the BJP stuck to its word in 2019, it could have had the CM's post for two-and-a-half years and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) experiment involving his party, the NCP and the Congress would not have taken place.

He was responding to a question whether the new government under Eknath Shinde is a Shiv Sena-BJP government.

Mr. Raut stressed that Mr. Shinde's move of splitting the Sena will not weaken the party. "Shiv Sena is where the Thackerays are," Mr. Raut asserted.

Summoned by ED

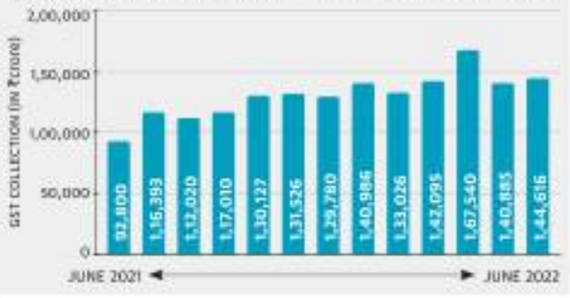
Sanjay Raut on Friday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here to record his statement in an alleged money laundering case, and left after more than ten hours. He answered all questions, and would appear before the central agency again if summoned, he told reporters.

Nupur should have apologised, says SC

"The petition [to club the FIRs] smacks of her arrogance, that the Magistrates of the country are too small for her... If you are a spokesperson of a party, it is not a licence to say things like this. If there is a misuse of the debate, the first thing she should have done was to file an FIR against the anchor", the court said.

GST revenues in June surpass ₹1.44 lakh crore

Revenue check | India's Goods and Services Tax collections surged to ₹1,44,616 crore in June, the second highest ever. The revenues were 56% higher than a year ago



"The sharp 56% headline growth in June benefits from the economic recovery, and has also been boosted by the low base of the second wave of COVID-19 and the transmission of elevated commodity prices into output inflation," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

Central GST collections in June were ₹25,306 crore, State GST at ₹32,406 crore, while Integrated GST accounted for ₹75,887 crore, including ₹40,102 crore collected on import of goods. GST revenues had hit a high of ₹1,67,540 crore in April this year, before dropping to about ₹1.41 lakh crore in May.

"These consistent high collections indicate recovery from the pandemic hit and can also be attributed to inflation and tight check and balances implemented by the government," said Abhishek Jain, partner (indirect tax) at KPMG India.

Most States and Union Territories recorded a sharp uptick in revenues, led by Kerala where collections jumped 116% year-on-year and Ladakh (118%), while negative growth was witnessed only in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu (-13%) and areas under Central jurisdiction (-12%).

Over 50% growth

Several States recorded over 50% growth in collections. Tamil Nadu recorded an 83% growth in June's GST collections, followed by Uttarakhand (82%), Haryana (77%), Karnataka (73%), Maharashtra (63%), West Bengal (58%), Rajasthan (56%), Punjab (51%) and Gujarat (50%).

Revenues in Uttar Pradesh grew by 49%, while the growth was 46% and 37% for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, respectively.

"The increase in States' collections in excess of 40% comes in the backdrop of the guaranteed revenue to States. This would assuage many States who were worried about their revenue mobilisation ability going forward," said M.S. Mani, partner at Deloitte India.

Maharashtra Cabinet to move Metro car shed

Project is to be shifted back to Aarey

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

In the first Cabinet meeting of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday, the Advocate General of Maharashtra was told to make an application to the Bombay High Court on Friday stating that the government would move the Metro car shed back to Aarey from Kanjurmarg.

On October 4, 2019, the High Court paved the way for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) to construct a car shed for Mumbai Metro Line 3 by upholding the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Tree Authority's move to cut 2,646 trees from Aarey milk colony, which led to protests by thousands of Mumbaikars.

A Division Bench then had said, "The Greens fail in the instant petition because they have lost touch with the procedure to be followed as per law." The decision had come in a bunch of petitions challenging a resolution passed by the BMC's Tree Authority to cut 2,646 trees at Aarey colony to make way for the Metro car shed.

The Bench also rejected the contention stating that MMRCL had scaled down the project with respect to the number of trees to be cut and that in itself was proof of the decision being fair, transparent and based on reason. The court had noted, the Tree Authority's decision to axe almost 3,000 trees was 'without application of mind'.

Shifting of the Metro car shed from Aarey to Kanjurmarg was the first decision that MVA govt. had taken in 2019.

Making me CM is masterstroke of Fadnavis: Eknath Shinde

He thanks Modi, Shah and BJP president for giving chance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said his elevation to the top post is due to the masterstroke by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis.

"People thought that the Bharatiya Janata Party was desperate for power. But truly, this is a masterstroke by Devendra-*ji*. To hand over power to another person despite having larger numbers (of MLAs) requires a big heart."

"With his decision, people of the State and the country got to see a new example of this large heartedness," Mr. Shinde said after he and Mr. Fadnavis were sworn in as CM and Deputy CM respectively at Raj Bhavan Thursday evening.

"The party with the most numbers has the claim to the Chief Minister's post. But in this case, I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, J.P. Nadda and specially Devendra Fadnavis, who showed a big heart and gave this chance to a Shiv Sainik," Mr. Shinde told a TV channel.

With open arms: Goa CM Pramod Sawant welcomes Eknath Shinde at a resort in Panaji on Thursday. • PTI

Mr. Shinde said the previous stint of Mr. Fadnavis as Chief Minister will come in handy as he leads the State.

"Fadnavis joined this ministry due to the directives of his (party) seniors. I am happy for this because his experience will come in handy in speeding up developmental works in the state," Mr. Shinde said.

IN BRIEF

Fadnavis missing at BJP's celebration event

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis was conspicuously absent during a celebration held at the State BJP headquarters here on Friday. The programme at the party office in south Mumbai was meant to celebrate its return to power in the State after the collapse of MVA government. PTI

SC to hear plea of Sena chief whip on July 11

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear on July 11 the plea of Shiv Sena chief whip Sunil Prabhu seeking suspension of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and 15 rebel MLAs from the Assembly. Their main plea against the Deputy Speaker's disqualification notices will also being heard that day. PTI

SC held a mirror to Modi govt.: Rahul

Congress says BJP should hang its head in shame after the court's observations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/WAYANAD

> The creation of this environment in the country is an anti-national act. This is against the interest of the people of India and is completely wrong. It is going to lead to tragedy
> RAHUL GANDHI
> Congress Leader

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) are responsible for creating an environment of hatred and anger, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Friday in response to the Supreme Court's observation that suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma was "single-handedly responsible for igniting emotions across the country".

Separately, the Congress, in a statement, said the BJP should "hang its head in shame" after the top court's remarks on Ms. Sharma.

"Yes, of course, the Supreme Court has said this [about Ms. Sharma] but the atmosphere in the country has been created by the ruling dispensation. It is not the person who has made the comment, it is the Prime Minister, Home Minister, BJP and the RSS that has created this environment of anger and hatred," Mr. Gandhi told reporters at Wayanad on the first day of his three-day tour to Kerala.

"The creation of this environment in the country is an anti-national act. This is against the interest of the people of India and is completely wrong. It is going to lead to tragedy," he said.

The former Congress chief said his party built bridges between different sections and violence was antithetical to its philosophy.

On behalf of the party, the general secretary in-charge of communication, Jairam Ramesh, said the top court had strengthened the party's resolve to fight "destructively divisive ideologies". "These remarks by the Supreme Court, which resonate with the entire country, should make the party in power hang its head in shame. The Supreme Court held a mirror to this government and called out the base ugliness of its actions," Mr. Ramesh said.

"It is no secret that the Bharatiya Janata Party seeks to profit from inflaming communal passions. Today, the Supreme Court has strengthened the resolve in every single one of us who are fighting these destructively divisive ideologies," he added.

Mr. Ramesh also pointed to the top court's observations about deferential treatment being given to the suspended BJP spokesperson by the Delhi Police and asking them [the Delhi Police] "if a red carpet was being rolled out for her".

HC issues notice to Delhi Police on Zubair's plea

Court gives 2-week notice to respond

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday granted two weeks to Delhi police to respond to Alt-news co-founder Mohammed Zubair's plea challenging his police remand in a case related to an objectionable tweet he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity. The four-day remand of Mr. Zubair ends on Saturday.

Justice Sanjeev Narula posted Mr. Zubair's petition, which challenges a trial court's June 28 order granting four days of custody to the police, for further hearing on July 27.

In the meantime, Justice Narula also made it clear that the proceedings before the trial court will continue without being influenced by the proceedings before the High Court. On Tuesday, a local court extended by four days the custodial interrogation of Mr. Zubair in the case after the Delhi police said he did not cooperate with the investigating agency. Mr. Zubair was produced before the court on the expiry of his one-day custodial interrogation.

Mr. Zubair was arrested on Monday for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets.

During the hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover, representing Mr. Zubair, argued that the remand order was not only passed "mechanically" but also invaded his privacy. Ms. Grover said that the investigating agency had called Mr. Zubair for questioning in some other case but he was arrested in the present case.

Two more arrested in tailor murder case

Udaipur gets new IG and SP after mass transfer

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI/UDAIPUR

Two more persons, who were arrested by the Rajasthan police in connection with the brutal murder of a tailor in Udaipur on June 28, were sent to judicial custody by a local court on Friday.

Mohsin and Asif were arrested for providing logistical support to the two prime accused, Mohammed Riyaz Attari and Ghous Mohammed, in the killing of Kanhaiya Lal. The murder was allegedly in retaliation to his social media post supporting suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

The prime accused were sent to 14-day judicial custody on Thursday. The local lawyers had refused to represent them in the court and staged a massive protest. The police also seized the getaway motorcycle said to be owned by Attari.

It is learnt that several others are being quizzed to zero in on all the conspirators and facilitators. Among them is one Nazim, who earlier ran a tailoring shop in front of the victim's and on whose complaint, the police had filed a case against Kanhaiya Lal on June 11 for the post on his Facebook page. Thereafter, as alleged, the victim's photograph was circulated in several WhatsApp groups.

32 officers shunted out

Two senior police officers of Udaipur were among the 32 IPS officers transferred in Rajasthan in the aftermath of the murder. Inspector General of Police Hinglaj Dan and Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar were shifted after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot visited the city on Thursday.

Praful Kumar, Inspector General of Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) was made the new IG of Udaipur, while Ajmer SP Vikas Kumar was transferred as the new SP of Udaipur.

Meanwhile, three persons were arrested in Ajmer for allegedly delivering a radical speech outside the *dargah* on June 17. Police suspect that their speech at the *dargah*'s main entry gate could have played a role in instigating Riyaz Attari and Ghous Mohammed to commit the horrifying crime in Udaipur.

Udaipur killing un-Islamic: Muslim bodies

At Friday sermon, Imams condemn 'dastardly act'

ZIYA US SALAM
NEW DELHI

Prominent Muslim organisations and clerics have denounced the brutal killing of Kanhaiya Lal by two Muslim men in Udaipur earlier this week. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board besides the imam of Jama Masjid in Old Delhi have condemned the killing, calling it "brutal, unpardonable and against the tenets of Islam". Imams in major mosques in Delhi, including the New Delhi Jama Masjid and those run by Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamiat used the Friday sermon to denounce "the dastardly act".

The Jamiat spokesperson called the Udaipur killing "against the law of the land and against the religion of Islam". "Whosoever has perpetrated the incident cannot be justified in any way." The Jamiat's president Arshad Madani, on a tour to Malaysia, condemned the incident. "The Udaipur incident is tragic, un-Islamic and an inhuman act. We condemn this instance and ask the law to take its own course."

Almost on the same lines came the reaction from Jamaat-e-Islami's Vice President Salim Engineer. "We condemn the barbaric murder of Kanhaiya Lal. There is no justification for such violence in Islam."

In his Friday sermon, Mohibullah Nadwi, imam of New Delhi Jama Masjid, condemned the Udaipur incident unequivocally and asked the faithful to take a leaf out of the Prophet's life in case of provocation. "The Prophet did not kill anybody for not accepting Islam."

Earlier, Imam Ahmed Bukhari of the historic Jama Masjid in Old Delhi called the murder "an act of cowardice" and "an act against Islam". This Friday too, the faithful were asked to maintain law and order, and make sure that the killers find no support from the community. Also, the body of Muslim religious intellectuals, AIMPLB' stated, "Taking the law into one's own hands and killing a person by declaring him a criminal is a condemnable act. It is against the principles of Islam."

Akali Dal bats for NDA's Presidential candidate

Party's real face exposed, says Cong.

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday announced support for NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu. The Congress reacted by saying that the SAD now stands completely "exposed".

In a statement, the party said it accepted Ms. Murmu's appeal for support in the upcoming election "as she symbolised the cause of minorities, the exploited and backward classes as well as the dignity of women. She has emerged as a symbol of the poor and tribal segments".

The Akali Dal had quit the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2020 over the three controversial farm laws (repealed later).

"While our reservations with the BJP over key issues like removing a sense of security from the minds of minorities, and justice for Punjab, especially the Sikhs, still remain, the SAD is eventually inspired and guided by the ideals of the great Guru Sahiban. Ms. Murmu not only symbolises the dignity of womenfolk but also belongs to the very downtrodden and the minority classes for whose cause the great Guru Sahiban made supreme sacrifices," said a resolution passed by the party's core committee here.

Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira said: "The real face of Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and his party is exposed as they support BJP candidate. It means his decision to break the alliance with the BJP was a farce and under the pressure of farmers' agitation. He could have abstained if he didn't want to support the Opposition candidate."

Sedition law should go: Sinha

Opposition Presidential nominee seeks support in Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

Opposition Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha on Friday batted for repealing the colonial-era sedition law. Mr. Sinha, who was in the Chhattisgarh capital to campaign for the July 18 election, said that such a law had no place in the country.

He was replying to a question on the misuse of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code [that defines sedition as bringing or attempting to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government and criminalises it, even attracting a life imprisonment for the violation].

"124A should go and I believe that most people would agree with me that it should no longer be a part of our legal system. This is a colonial-era law that should be repealed. However, a President can only advise the government and can't repeal the law himself/herself," he said to a question on the remedial measures he would take if he got elected.

> [The provision] 124A should go and I believe that most people would agree with me that it should no longer be a part of our legal system. This is a colonial-era law that should be repealed.
>
> YASHWANT SINHA
> Opposition Presidential candidate

Numbers favourable

The numbers look favourable for Mr. Sinha in Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh. The party has two Lok Sabha and four Rajya Sabha MPs, apart from 71 MLAs in the Assembly, giving the Opposition candidate a clear edge over NDA's Droupadi Murmu. Ms. Murmu has the support of the BJP's nine Lok Sabha MPs, one Rajya Sabha MP, apart from 14 MLAs. The Janta Congress Chhattisgarh and the Bahujan Samaj Party, which have five MLAs between them, have also pledged support to Ms. Murmu.

Asked if Ms. Murmu's tribal identity would hamper his chances in a predominantly tribal State like Chhattisgarh, Mr. Sinha said that for him it was a battle of ideology rather than identity. To another question on the outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind, Mr. Sinha said the latter's appointment did not necessarily benefit the Dalits.

The former Union Minister also reminded the gathering of his association with Chhattisgarh as he got married in Bhilai six decades ago. He made light of his wife Neelima Sinha's earlier remark that the NDA candidate was a good choice. "It's gracious of her [Ms. Sinha] to call the NDA candidate good and I also agree that she is good. But the question here is who is a better candidate," he said, evoking laughter.

Mr. Sinha came down heavily on the Centre for misusing the probe agencies, mainly the Enforcement Directorate, for vendetta against political opponents. He expressed fears that those parties who earlier endorsed his candidature and later made a U-turn, did so under pressure from the ED.

Mamata softens stand on Presidential election

BJP could have talked to us, she says

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Observing that Droupadi Murmu has a higher chance of winning the Presidential election, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said that the consensus candidate is always better for the high office of President of India.

"If we had an idea about their (Bharatiya Janata Party's) candidate, we could have discussed at the all-party meeting.... Though the contest is on, Droupadi Murmu's chances are better... They have more numbers because of the developments in Maharashtra," Ms. Banerjee said during an interaction with journalists.

She said that she has "sentiments" for women but does not judge people on the basis of their gender.

Asked whether there was any scope of reconsideration, the CM said that whatever Opposition parties decide, she has to abide by it. Ms. Banerjee said that when the BJP leadership approached, they only asked about our suggestion and did not inform us of their choice.

Mamata Banerjee

The election will be held on July 18 and the counting of votes, if required, will be held on July 21, ahead of the end of President Ram Nath Kovind's term on July 24.

FIR petition against Masjid panel junked

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

A District Court in Varanasi has now dismissed a plea seeking an FIR against the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee and its members for allegedly trying to erase purported "symbols of *Hinduism*" within the mosque premises in the Gyanvapi case.

District Judge A.K. Vishvesha said that the petitioner - Jitender Singh Visen - could not produce any specific evidence that pointed to any cognizable offences committed by the masjid panel.

Mr. Singh, who holds the power of attorney to legally represent Rakhi Singh, one of the plaintiffs in the original civil suit, had approached the Court with a revision petition seeking an FIR after a lower court had refused to admit the same. Mr. Singh is also the chief of the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh.

In the Shahi Idgah Mosque-Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi case, a civil court on Friday adjourned the hearing in all related suits. The case has been listed for next hearing on July 5 and all similar suits for July 15.

Celebrated diplomat Satinder Lambah passes away at 81

He worked to normalise ties between India and Pakistan

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Throughout his career as a diplomat both before and after retirement from government, Satinder K. Lambah ("Sati" to most), who passed away on Thursday in New Delhi at the age of 81, carried a legacy of special relationships with each country he served in, but it was his engagement with Pakistan that lasted the longest, and saw the biggest breakthroughs, when he was Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's special envoy (2005-2014). In a message, Mr. Singh called Mr. Lambah "one of the most outstanding members of the Indian Foreign service," who had worked with "utmost devotion to normalise India-Pakistan relations."

"Grieved at the passing away of Ambassador Sati Lambah. He was one of our most distinguished diplomats and a real mentor to the generations that came after him," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar wrote on Twitter.

Mr. Lambah was born in Peshawar in 1941, and like his wife Nina, who hailed from Lahore, held links to his birthplace dear. During his time in the Indian Foreign Service, Mr. Lambah had served as India's Deputy High Commissioner (1978-81) and High Commissioner (1992-95) to Pakistan as well as the Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran).

Satinder Lambah

Those years, and the friendships he made across the border served as the base for his work on the India-Pakistan backchannel for Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf and PM Singh, which worked on a draft of the "Four Step Formula" that could have led to a resolution on Jammu and Kashmir.

While the draft never came to fruition, especially after the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks and Pakistan's refusal to bring the perpetrators to justice, derailed the process, many other initiatives between India and Pakistan: the trans-Kashmir LoC bus, trade, liberalisation of visas, holding of cricket matches marked the most successful period in ties between the two countries in recent decades.

Mr. Lambah was also part of the team that opened India's Embassy in Dhaka after Bangladesh's liberation. As PM Atal Behari Vajpayee's special envoy on Afghanistan (2001-2002), he flew aboard the first Indian Airforce plane into Kabul along with then Charge d'Affaires Gautam Mukhopadhaya to reopen the Indian mission after Taliban rule ended. "The quickness and agility with which we reopened our embassy in Kabul and responded to requests for support from the Northern Alliance government that was still to be put in place was really due to Mr. Lambah's sharp political instincts," Mr. Mukhopadhaya said.

Cong. wants flawed GST to be replaced

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Asserting that the present Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure has 'wrecked the economy,' former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said on Friday that it needs to be scrapped and replaced with a simplified GST 2.0.

Addressing a joint press conference with Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh on the fifth anniversary of the GST's launch, Mr. Chidambaram said the indirect tax, in its present form, had led to a complete breakdown of trust between the Centre and the States and destroyed the micro, medium and small enterprises sector that provides 90 per cent of the jobs. Its complexities had forced the government to "change the rules every two days".

The Congress also demanded consultations with all stakeholders and an all-party meeting to work out a new simple law. "The first thing to be done is to get rid of these six rates. You have to have a single low rate. The world over, that is GST," Mr. Chidambaram told reporters.

DRDO carries out test flight of autonomous UAV

It was developed in Bengaluru unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday successfully carried out the maiden test flight of a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), an autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.

"Operating in a fully autonomous mode, the aircraft exhibited a perfect flight, including take-off, way point navigation and a smooth touchdown," DRDO said. "This flight marks a major milestone in terms of proving critical technologies towards the development of future unmanned aircraft and is significant step towards self-reliance in strategic defence technologies."

It is a reduced sized autonomous aircraft and is proving various technologies for autonomous aircraft to be built in future, a DRDO official explained. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is powered by a small turbofan engine.

The engine is Russian TRDD-50MT originally designed for cruise missiles. "A small turbo fan engine is being developed indigenously for meeting the requirement," another official told *The Hindu*. The UAV was designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, a premier research laboratory of DRDO.

DRDO is developing UAVs of different classes.

DRDO is in the process of developing UAVs of different classes to met the requirements of the armed forces. Rustom-2, the indigenous Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV under development, had crossed a milestone by reaching an altitude of 25,000 feet and an endurance of 10 hours in December 2021 and is being designed to reach an altitude of 30,000 feet and 18 hours endurance. An Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle is also on the drawing board.

Army to buy 800 combat vehicles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Army has initiated the process for the procurement of 800 Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicle (LAMV) for its mechanised infantry and armoured corps by issuing the Request For Information (RFI).

"The LAMV will be employed by reconnaissance (Recce) and surveillance platoons of Mechanised Infantry and Recce Troops of Armoured Corps for recce and surveillance tasks. Hence, the proposed LAMV must possess adequate mobility and provide protection for troops on board," the RFI stated. It should be able to carry weapons, ammunition, surveillance and communication equipment required to carry out operational tasks, it stated. The RFI is being issued with a view to finalise Services Qualitative Requirements (SQRs), decide procurement category and identify probable Indian vendors who are capable to undertake the said project and deliver it within a period of 36 months from date of award of contract, the RFI said.

'India's nuclear policy reflects past ideology'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (retd.) on Friday said India's policy on nuclear weapons was a manifestation of its past ideology.

He was addressing the last day of the conference 'Human Rights in Indian Culture and Philosophy'.

Justice Mishra said Indian civilisational ethos was "blessed with the power of assimilation of different streams of ideas and faiths, as we want to improve and not impose our culture upon others, which may amount to violation of human rights," an NHRC statement said.

He said the world was today facing the threat of destructive weapons, the use of which only benefitted the manufacturers of the weapons.

India asks Pakistan to release 536 fishermen held in its custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India on Friday called on Pakistan to release and repatriate 536 Indian fishermen and three civilian prisoners who have completed their jail-term and whose nationality has been confirmed. Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate consular access to 105 fishermen and 20 civilian prisoners who have been in Pakistan's custody and are believed to be Indians, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

India made the request in the context of the exchange of the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen by the two countries as part of a practice to do so on January 1 and July 1 every calendar year under the framework of a 2008 agreement. The MEA said India handed over a list of 309 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 95 fishermen in India's custody to Pakistan. Pakistan has shared lists of 49 civilian prisoners and 633 fishermen in its custody, the ministry said.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due date
222313 002025	Transport & Customs Clearance (CHA) of Paper/Board in containers for export through Chennai/Kattupalli/ Ennore/ Tuticorin/ Cochin Ports from TNPL Unit-1 at Kagithapuram and Unit-2 at Mondipatti	14.07.2022 at 03:00 PM

Detailed terms & condition, Tender fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in.
DIPR/3175/Tender/2022
TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

The Kerala State Women's Development Corporation Ltd.
(Department of Women & Child -Government of Kerala)
1st Floor, Transport Bhavan, KSRTC Building, East fort 695023, Ph: +91 471 2454585

Corrigendum
Pre Bid Meeting and Extension of E tender dated 13.06.2022

KSWDC/P5/SHE PAD/General/2019-2022 Dated 30.06.2022
Tender No : KSWDC/P5/SHE PAD/General/2019-2022.
Tender ID : 2022_KSWDC_494216_1.
For more details visit : www.etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kswdc.org
Last date of submission of online bid: 12.07.2022 at 5:00 pm
(Sd/-)
Managing Director

Bureau of Investment Promotion
BIP/Info/103 Date: 29.06.2022

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for Procurement of Services of PR Partner for Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan are invited from interested bidders upto 2.30 PM of 08.07.2022. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. UBN: BIP2223SLOB00006
Raj.Samwad/C/22/4336
Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-BIDs

PROC-I/NIB-02/2022-23/BN-9015002211 to BN-9015002212 and PROC-II/NIB-03/2022-23 BN-9016002212

Online e-bids are invited from interested bidders for Purchase of 36 kV CTs & PTs (BN-9015002211 UBN-VPN2223GLRC00599), 245 kV & 145 kV CVTs (BN-9015002212 UBN-VPN2223GLRC00601) and 33/36 kV 1250A & 800A Isolators (BN-9016002212 UBN- VPN2223GLRC00598).
The detailed NIB and Bid document/specification are available for viewing/downloading on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl.
RRVPN/TR-5509/2022
Raj.Samwad/C/22/4381
Superintending Engineer (Proc-I)

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Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines) E-mail: purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 001856	Procurement of Pigment Dyes for Paper Machine # 1, 2 & 3 a) Violet Dye b) Blue Dye	16.07.2022

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Quantity, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in.
DIPR/3174/Tender/2022
TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
No. DB/62983/08 (26) Dated: 01.07.2022

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive E-Tenders are invited LED street lighting system in highways, main roads, and selected minor roads. The project spans over 10 years after implementation with necessary maintenance, replacement of items, centralized control for turning ON/OFF at stipulated time intervals, smart mechanisms to detect faults/non-working LED lighting system and mobile alert mechanisms for general public to register complaints against improper working of street lighting system. Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from reputed and experienced companies/firms to carryout LED street lighting project for Thiruvananthapuram Corporation.
The detailed tender notice is published in our website www.https://tmc.lsgkerala.gov.in/ and office notice board. For participating e-tender visit website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
NAMAKKAL MUNICIPALITY

Roc No:14381/2016/E1 Dated: 01.07.2022

Tender Notice
Form of contract: Item rate (Two Cover System)

Bids are invited by the Commissioner, Namakkal Municipality or his authorized person for Construction of New Bus stand at Muthalaipatti survey no 306/1,306/2 & 307 in Namakkal Municipality at an estimate cost-Rs 1950.00 lakhs under I&A fund 2021 – 2022. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in at free of cost. Manual Submission and E-submission of tenders will be accepted. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a package / Work. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from Engineering section of this office on all working days during office hours.

Important dates

Date and time of Pre bid meeting	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission)	Last Date and time for submission of bid document in person	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid
22.07.2022 at 11.00 AM	10.08.2022 at 2.00 PM	10.08.2022 at 2.00 PM	11.08.2022 at 3.00 PM	11.08.2022 at 3.30 PM

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Date of opening of Price bid will be informed after scrutinizing the Technical bid to the eligible bidders.
DIPR/3188/Tender/2022
Commissioner,
Namakkal Municipality

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
A Mini Ratna Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL www.bcclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued thorugh e-procurement portal of CIL.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E- TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-3B &5A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-03(B)&05 (A)/22-23 Dt: 30.06.2022

"Painting works @ SDSC SHAR areas"(T/C-22-012, Est. cost ₹32.53 Lakhs); "Miscellaneous civil works @ SMPC unit-2" (T/C-22-013, Est. cost ₹11.29 Lakhs). "Shamiyana on hire basis @ SHAR" (T/C-22-024, Est. cost ₹7.46 Lakhs); Sale period extended upto 13.07.2022. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

KARUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Tender Notice
Form of contract: Item rate (Two cover system)

1. Bids are invited in work for the Infrastructure and Amenities Fund 2021 - 22 detailed below.

Package No	Work	No of Works	Value put to tender (Rs. in crores)	Period of Completion
1	Infrastructure and Amenities fund 2021-2022 Construction of New Bus Stand at Thirumanilayur in Karur Corporation	1	40.00	18 months

1. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in at free of cost. 2. Bid documents can be downloaded from 2.00 PM on 06.07.2022 Online submission of tender will also be accepted. 3. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value put to tender for a Work. 4. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from the office of the Commissioner of Karur Corporation on all working days during office hours.
5. Important dates:
1. Date and time of Pre bid meeting : 13.07.2022 at 11.00 AM
2. Last date and time for downloading bid documents : 03.08.2022 at 2.00 PM
3. Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission : 03.08.2022 at 3.00 PM
4. Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid : 03.08.2022 at 3.30 PM
6. In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
7. Other details can be seen in the bid documents. (Roc.No.8560/2021/E1, Dated: 30.06.2022).
Commissioner,
Karur City Municipal Corporation

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Web site: (Contact Number 9646116754)

Tender Enquiry No. 289/HPs/ED-III/M-139 dt. 30-06-2022

Dy.CE/ Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF C&R PANELS OF 132 KV FEEDERS, POWER TRANSFORMERS AND BUS COUPLER FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING C&R PANELS AT UBDC POWER HOUSE NO.3 STAGE I.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.07.2022 onwards.
NOTE: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C 256/22
76155/12/969/2021/15381

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- acebpr@gmail.com, aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 02/2022-23

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, online tender are hereby invited from eligible bidders for NIT no. 02/2022-23 for the work of ***"Water Supply Scheme of 190 villages of Rajakhera & Dholpur Block of District Dholpur from Lift Irrigation cum Drinking Water Project for providing FHTCs including 10-year O&M after defect liability period of one year on percentage rate basis single point responsibility turn-key contract under Jal Jeevan Mission."*** with estimated cost Rs. 25121.42Lakh, start date and time for online downloading 01/7/2022 6.00PM and last date time of submission 01/8/2022 at 6.00PM, as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/Tender document available on website : http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Tender are to be submitted online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule.
UBN No. PHE 2223WLOBO3672
(Hemant Kumar)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED Bharatpur
DIPR/C/8816

How delisting is a ticking political time bomb in northern Chhattisgarh

With the next Assembly elections just about a year away, the drive towards delisting of converted tribals has attained great political significance in the State

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

During a recent visit to Chhattisgarh's Jashpur, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was asked about the delisting of tribals who have converted to other religions, primarily Christianity – an issue that has been festering in the State since the beginning of this year. A number of rallies have been held in Jashpur in recent months to protest against tribals who have converted, but still avail benefits of the Scheduled Tribe provisions.

Mr. Baghel sought to put the ball in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s court, saying that the campaign for delisting was being run by the BJP and since the party is in power at the Centre, it should initiate a constitutional amendment if it means business rather than "hold rallies in Jashpur".

While the issue of delisting of Christian tribals in order to deny them reservation benefits has gained momentum nationally since the beginning of this year, the question assumes greater significance in a district like Jashpur that has 67% tribal population, most of whom hail from the Oraon tribe and a majority of whom are converts to Christianity from several generations ago.

The issue has assumed political significance in the light of the fact that the entire northern belt of Surguja had voted en masse for the Congress in the 2018 assembly elections, forcing the BJP to draw a blank in all the 14 seats there. With the next Assembly elections just about a year away, the drive towards delisting of converted tribals may split the 32% tribal votes in the State, which is not good news for the ruling Congress party, admits its leaders privately.

Key issue: The drive towards delisting of converted tribals may split the 32% tribal votes in the State. • PTI

Bhagat, face of protests

Ganesh Ram Bhagat, a former State minister and the national convenor of Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM), has emerged as the face of the delisting protests in the region. Founded in 2006, JSM is leading the delisting campaign in the country and is widely perceived to have the backing of the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). Jashpur, a district that shares borders with Jharkhand and Odisha, is Mr. Bhagat's home turf and hence, crucial from his individual standpoint too, according to those in the BJP.

SPECIAL

"We will not sit quietly till the demands are met. If the Christians do not follow our tribal cultures and traditions, do not worship the gods that we do, how can they be counted as tribals and keep on taking the reservation benefits?" he asks.

However, such assertions have sparked fears among the Christians, says Yakub Kujur, a former college professor and member of the Jashpur Vikas Samiti that works for the rights of the tribals and the displaced. He also says that despite the conversion, his family and other fellow Christians follow many tribal customs and traditions.

It is to be noted that it was also in Jashpur, where the first Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram was founded in 1952 by Ramakant Keshav Deshpande (also known as Balasaheb Deshpande), an official of the Odisha State Department of Tribal Welfare, with the support of the then undivided Madhya Pradesh government [led by Congress' Ravi Shankar Shukla] and the RSS.

Ghar Wapasi Abhiyaan

The turf-war over the years has only intensified. More recently, the region was the main hub of a Ghar Wapasi Abhiyaan in Chhattisgarh's tribal hub, with the members of the Jashpur royal family, particularly the now deceased BJP leader Dilip Singh Judeo, playing a leading role in the campaign. During his lifetime, he had claimed to have reconverted thousands of Christian tribals back to Hinduism.

Since his death in 2013, there has been a clamp down on such activities.

"It is common knowledge that the Christians do not vote for us and hence if they are delisted, it will only help us electorally. However, there is the larger question of other tribals being denied the benefits meant for them. Christians can no longer be termed backward," says an ex- MLA on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Kujur, however, feels that delisting will have far-reaching consequences and it does not merely concern reservation benefits. "Delisting may also mean that we won't be counted as tribals and that means de-scheduling Fifth Schedule of the Constitution that deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram," he says.

Mr. Bhagat says that the animist beliefs and worshipping of nature by the tribals are closer to Sanatana Dharma than Christianity.

After having organised several rallies at the district level, Mr. Bhagat's JSM now wants to take the issue to each and every block of Surguja and later Bastar, another tribal belt in South Chhattisgarh. He distances himself from BJP party and says he is only working for tribal rights and "anyone was free to benefit from it".

India is world's pharmacy: Mandaviya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pharmacopoeia is important to develop a *Swasthya* and *Samrudh* Bharat, to maintain standard quality of our medical products – vaccines, medicines, equipment, etc. and to keep an eye on the effect of these medicines on patients, said Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday. The Minister released the 9th edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) at Vigyan Bhawan and said the country should work towards getting the IP appreciated worldwide.

Stating that India had become the "pharmacy of the world" by specialising in generic medicine formulation and manufacturing, and by supplying medicines globally, the Minister said there is a need to strengthen research in the pharmaceutical sector.

Modi holds talks with Putin

The leaders discuss Ukraine, bilateral trade in agricultural goods, and fertilizers

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, where the leaders discussed Ukraine and the latest developments in the global commodities market. The talks came days after Mr. Modi participated in the G-7 summit in Germany.

"The two leaders reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during President Putin's visit to India in December 2021. In particular, they exchanged ideas on how bilateral trade in agricultural goods, fertilizer and pharma products could be encouraged further," an official press release said.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in the Ukraine crisis, with Mr. Modi reiterating "India's long-standing position in favour of dialogue and diplomacy."

Deepening dialogue: Vladimir Putin and Narendra Modi had met in New Delhi in December 2021. • FILE PHOTO

Friday's discussion showed a continuum of diplomatic consultation that has intensified over the last few days which also witnessed heavy warfare between Ukraine and Russia.

According to a Russian statement on the conversation, President Putin accused the Western powers of obstructing a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. Diplomatic sources indicated that India is closely following the course of the war in Ukraine, especially the latest Russian strikes in Odessa, and Kyiv.

The Indian announcement of the telephone conversation said that the "leaders also discussed global issues, including the state of the international energy and food markets". Despite Western objections, India has emerged as a major buyer of Russian crude oil in the last four months since Russia invaded Ukraine.

The latest estimates suggest that Russian oil supplies to India in June reached an average of 1.2 million barrels per day. That apart, Russia has emerged as a major partner for India as New Delhi battles the "commodities shock", that is the fallout of the combination of war and the punitive western sanctions on Russia.

In order to prevent a fertilizer shortfall, India reached out to Russia earlier this year. According to Russian news outlet, Sputnik, India imported 3,50,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate from Russia between April and July. India's fertilizer requirement is expected to grow as the monsoon rains will be accompanied by the kharif sowing season.

Lakhs of devotees throng Puri to attend annual Rath Yatra

200 special trains run for the convenience of pilgrims

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Lakhs of devotees thronged the coastal town of Puri town to witness the annual Rath Yatra with three decorated chariots of sibling deities Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath and Devi Subhadra towed in front of the 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple on Friday.

For the first time in two years, devotees turned up for Rath Yatra at Puri as COVID-19 scare had forced the State government to organise the annual festival restricting participation below 500 people including priests in 2020 and 2021.

As not all devotees can enter the temple on normal days, three deities, it is said, are taken out once in a year to give *darshan* to all.

Ministry of Railways had announced that it will run over 200 special trains during the yatra for smooth travel and convenience of the pilgrims.

Annual procession: Temple priests and devotees preparing for the Jagannath yatra in Puri. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Governor Ganeshi Lal, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Chief Justice of Odisha High Court S. Muralidhar towed the chariots.

In view of congregation of a massive crowd, 180 police platoons led by 1,000 trained officers were deployed for traffic control and to prevent any untoward incidents including attempts of sabotage.

Active COVID-19 cases rise to 1,07,189 in country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India added 17,070 new coronavirus infections on Friday, taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,34,69,234, while the active cases increased to 1,07,189, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,25,139 with 23 new fatalities. The active cases comprise 0.25% of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was 98.55%, the ministry said.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 3.40%, while the weekly positivity rate was 3.59%, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,28,36,906.

According to the ministry, 197.74 crore doses of vaccine have been administered in the country so far, under the nationwide vaccination drive.

Toll in Manipur landslide rises to 21

50 bodies still remain buried, says officials

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM
IMPHAL

The death toll in the massive landslide at Tupul, in Noney district of Manipur, on Thursday has increased to 21, officials sources said.

As many as 13 bodies were recovered on Friday. Officials said that over 50 bodies are believed to be buried under the debris.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren, who visited the devastation site on Friday for the second time, said that a sophisticated machine would arrive shortly from Ladakh that would help retrieve missing bodies.

The State government had announced an ex-gratia of ₹5 lakh each for the family members of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the family members of the injured.

The rescued victims had been admitted to the Public Health Centre, Tupul. However, three persons who had developed health complications were rushed to Imphal for better treatment.

Officials said that rescue teams are finding it difficult to reach the areas as vehicles cannot ply along the slippery and muddy hill roads. Search operations were suspended the whole night as there was no electricity in Tupul areas.

The bodies found on Friday were of ten Army personnel and a railway employee. At least five tribal villagers are missing. Workers are trying to dig out upper portions of the debris, which has blocked the flow of water in Ijei river, to prevent flooding of low lying villages.

The landslide has raised serious questions about the advisability of completing the railway lines connecting Manipur to Jiri station in Assam. The entire rail line will be located in the hills. The Manipur hills are of loose earth and rains always trigger landslides and mud slides, disrupting vehicle traffic on State and national highways.

Dhankar appoints V-C for Rabindra University

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar has announced the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor for Rabindra Bharati University (RBU), even as several legislation replacing him as Chancellor of State-run universities is awaiting his consent.

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly earlier this month passed several legislation replacing the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of universities. The development has triggered a fresh controversy in the State.

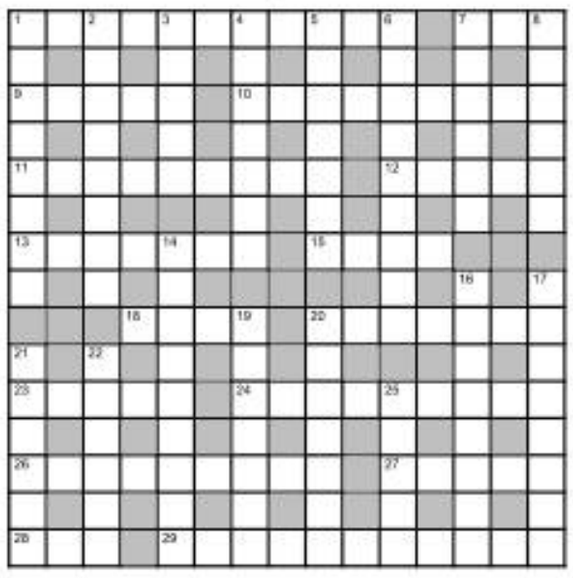
"WB Guv Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar as Chancellor has appointed Dr. Mahua Mukherjee, Professor, Dept. of Dance, Rabindra Bharati University, as Vice Chancellor Rabindra Bharati University in terms of section 9(1) (b) of the Rabindra Bharati Act, 1981," Mr. Dhankhar tweeted on Thursday.

THE CROSSWORD + 13598

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 In other words, a moist European plant (4,2,1,4)
7 Nothing much, first downward trend (3)
9 Bothersome without right way of doing things (5)
10 Master control, block capital (9)
11 Union member comfortable in prison (9)
12 Dig into some strudel, very tasty (5)
13 Approval to review communist reformer (7)
15 Rate part of movie promotion (4)
18 Painful reminder of a Standard super 10? (4)
20 Figure out and log in to the city (7)
23 Vessel returning from Muscat, roaming all over (5)
24 Clubs, perhaps, arranging mini tours (5,4)
26 Mental illness – pity it goes along with 19 (9)
27 After Evensong study a place in Utah (5)
28 Alcoholic very tense (3)
29 Animated air about Nirav Modi, perhaps (11)

Down

1 Capital stay, one supports protein rich food (4,4)
2 Talks about right sides and whirlpools (8)
3 Paper goes topless, it's a problem (5)
4 A friend's hurt, being exposed as a greenhorn (7)
5 Small-town ceramic, perhaps to be removed (7)
6 Sing about doctor made exercise equipment (9)
7 Doubled increase of fraud (6)
8 Moderate check on Pound (6)
14 Truly assumed charge and gave a speech (9)
16 Arranged guides to go with an invocation (5,3)
17 It accommodates a subject not belonging to any country (8)
19 Broadcast over our PM shortly coming up in country (7)
20 Composition with one part of Tin and two parts of Tantalum (7)
21 Bones formed by vehicle discharge (6)
22 Fungal attack on door frame, right from below (3-3)
25 Place to rest, very big in Erode (5)

SUDOKU

9		3					1	
	2	8					5	3
		4			2			
	3	6	9	7				5
		5	6		3	1		
2				1	4	6	3	
			1			9		
5	6					3	4	
	9					5		8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13597

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	7	8	1	2	9	3	6
9	3	1	6	5	4	8	7	2
8	2	6	3	9	7	5	4	1
4	8	9	1	7	6	3	2	5
6	7	5	2	8	3	1	9	4
2	1	3	5	4	9	7	6	8
3	9	8	4	2	1	6	5	7
7	5	2	9	6	8	4	1	3
1	6	4	7	3	5	2	8	9

FAITH

Nectar personified

Abirami Bhattar refers to Ambal as nectar. Nectar is said to confer immortality on those who consume it. When the ocean was churned, Lord Siva took Halahala poison. Ancient Tamil Nadu was classified into different regions, each with its own climate and vegetation. Dry, desert-like areas came under the classification known as paalai. In Silappadikaram, there is a verse which says that in the paalai region, hunters worshipped Goddess Kotravai. The verse says that the Goddess Herself consumed the Halahala poison, said M.A. Manickavelu in a discourse. The devas were afraid of the poison that came from the ocean. They took nectar, thinking it would keep them alive forever. But it did not. But the Goddess took the poison, and continues to remain untroubled by the poison. She is indestructible, and She is the One who blesses even the devas, who are destined to die and to be reborn. That is why Abirami Bhattar says that She is nectar personified.

The pancha bhutas constitute Her divine body. One of the names of Ambal in Lalitha Sahasranama is Panchabhuthesi. Lord Siva dances in the forest. Even after the world is destroyed, this Cosmic dance goes on. This dance is known as Pandaranga. Siva gladly bears on His head the feet of Ambal. The idea that the beloved of a deity could put her feet on her Lord's head, is seen in an incident in poet Jayadeva's life. He penned a verse, where he said that Radha, the Gopika, put her feet on Krishna's head. Then thinking it was sinful to write such a verse, Jayadeva abandoned the verse. But when he returned from his bath, he found the same verse put back. Lord Krishna had come as Jayadeva and had written the verse again, showing that He accepted the idea of Radha placing her feet on His head.

MARKET WATCH

	01-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,908	-0.21
US Dollar	78.94	0.15
Gold	51,458	1.75
Brent oil	110.88	-3.55

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	677.90	5.85
Apollo Hosp	3736.15	52.65
Asian Paints	2773.15	77.95
Axis Bank	643.95	7.15
Bajaj Auto	3624.60	-82.00
Bajaj Finserv	11322.55	390.80
Bajaj Finance	5614.40	213.90
Bharti Airtel	673.45	-11.50
BPCL	318.35	9.95
Britannia Ind	3584.35	117.95
Cipla	949.30	32.10
Coal India	183.25	-2.35
Divis Lab	3637.55	7.15
Dr Reddys Lab	4385.90	-7.90
Eicher Motors	2782.80	-11.55
Grasim Ind	1347.25	26.50
HCL Tech	975.35	2.10
HDFC	2210.55	39.70
HDFC Bank	1353.75	5.75
HDFC Life	565.45	15.45
Hero MotoCorp	2763.80	44.10
Hindalco	341.15	2.50
Hind Unilever	2282.35	51.75
ICICI Bank	703.90	-3.30
Indusind Bank	807.20	12.85
Infosys	1479.40	17.50
ITC	284.35	10.85
JSW Steel	578.85	14.35
Kotak Bank	1667.75	6.65
L&T	1572.15	13.90
M&M	1107.35	14.20
Maruti Suzuki	8402.60	-68.15
Nestle India Ltd.	17795.05	325.05
NTPC	140.65	-2.25
ONGC	131.05	-20.50
PowerGrid Corp	206.50	-5.40
Reliance Ind	2408.70	-186.95
SBI Life	1099.85	18.25
State Bank	466.85	0.95
Shree Cement	19213.80	204.10
Sun Pharma	829.25	-1.35
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	719.55	13.20
Tata Motors	412.70	0.90
Tata Steel	872.85	5.80
TCS	3315.10	48.00
Tech Mahindra	1010.70	10.70
Titan	1946.20	4.95
UltraTech Cement	5691.70	84.40
UPL	643.50	11.10
Wipro	422.00	5.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.85	79.17
Euro	82.39	82.73
British Pound	94.98	95.37
Japanese Yen (100)	58.30	58.54
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.82
Swiss Franc	82.13	82.47
Singapore Dollar	56.52	56.76
Canadian Dollar	61.03	61.28
Malaysian Ringitt	17.87	17.97
Australian Dollar	53.56	53.78

Source: Indian Bank

Govt. hikes duty on gold to cushion rupee

Centre raises tariff on gold to 15%; imposes cess on export of crude oil, fuels to check 'windfall' profits

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

In a bid to curb a surge in gold imports and check 'windfall gains' being made by producers of crude oil and petroleum products, the Centre has raised the import duty on the yellow metal to 15%, from 10.75%, and levied fresh taxes on the export of fuels, including petrol and ATF, as well as on the domestic sale of crude oil.

The higher gold import levy is expected to help rein in India's rising current account deficit and ease the pressure on the rupee. As much as 107 tonnes of gold were imported in May and imports have been 'significant' in June as well, the Finance Ministry said, stressing that the surge in gold imports was putting pressure on India's current account deficit.

Costly glitter: A surge in gold imports has added pressure on India's current account deficit and also the rupee. • FILE PHOTO

Foreign trade data show India's gold imports surged almost ninefold in May to surpass $6 billion, from $677.7 million in May 2021.

A cess of ₹23,250 per tonne has been levied on crude oil in the face of the elevated global prices that were leading to windfall profits for domestic oil producers who sell their output at international parity prices even to domestic refineries. This cess would, however, not apply to imported crude and would have no adverse impact on domestic fuel prices, the Ministry said.

A special additional excise duty has also been imposed on exports of petroleum products at ₹6 per litre on petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), and ₹13 per litre on diesel as exports have become more attractive for more domestic refineries.

'Boost local availability'

Exporters would now also be required to declare at the time of exports that 50% of the outbound quantity of fuel has been or will be supplied in the domestic market during the current financial year. "These measures will ensure domestic availability of the petroleum products," the Ministry stressed.

"The higher duties on inbound gold shipments will slightly reduce the outflow on account of gold imports, and help provide stability" to the rupee-dollar exchange rate, said Abhishek Jain, partner (indirect tax) at KPMG India. "The change in taxation on petroleum products will help reduce the recent uptick in the demand-supply gap," he added.

The cess on crude would not be levied for small producers with annual output of less than 2 million barrels in the previous financial year. Also, to incentivise additional production, the levy would be waived on a firm's crude oil output that was in excess of last year's output.

PMI hints manufacturing slowed to a 9-month low

Prices drag confidence to 27-month low

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Price pressures dampened growth in India's manufacturing sector to the slowest pace in nine months, with the survey-based Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) sliding to 53.9 in June, from 54.6 in May. Worries about inflation also dragged business confidence sentiment down to a 27-month.

"Factory orders and production rose for the twelfth straight month... but in both cases the rates of expansion eased to nine-month lows," S&P Global said in a note.

A reading of 50 on the PMI indicates no change in the level of activity from the previous month.

Export orders rise

New export orders rose for the third successive month in June and employment rose for the fourth successive month, albeit at a slight pace. While stronger client demand sustained order books, growth was curbed by acute inflationary pressures as per respondents' inputs in the PMI survey.

The manufacturing sector displayed encouraging resilience on the face of acute price pressures, rising interest rates, rupee depreciation and a challenging geopolitical landscape, said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence Unit.

"Yet, there was a broad-based slowdown in growth across a number of measures such as factory orders, production, exports, input buying and employment as clients and businesses restricted spending amid elevated inflation," she noted.

'Output unlikely to rise'

Although the outlook for the Indian manufacturing industry remained positive midway through 2022, sentiment slipped to a 27-month low, S&P Global said, with less than 4% of panellists forecasting output growth in the year ahead. The vast majority expect no change in output from present levels a year on, citing inflation as the key concern.

The rate of input cost inflation faced by producers remained historically high, but was the slowest in three months, as were the pass-through of costs through higher charges to consumers. Firms reported increases for a wide range of inputs, including chemicals, electronics, energy, metals and textiles.

"There was positive news regarding supply chains, with the latest results showing the first shortening of input lead times since the onset of COVID-19. This seemed to have curbed the upward pressure on input costs, with purchase prices and output charges increasing at sharp but slower rates," Ms. De Lima noted.

"Companies nevertheless remained very concerned about inflation, a key factor that dragged down business confidence," she concluded.

'Steep duty on gold will boost grey market'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The steep increase in import duty on gold by about 500 basis points to arrest the free fall of the rupee may strengthen the grey market, trade officials said.

"This hike will put the entire industry in a spot and may encourage smuggling," said Ashish Pethe, chairman, Gem & Jewellery Council (GJC).

"Unless this move is tactical and temporary, this will likely strengthen the grey market with long-term adverse consequences for the gold market," said Somasundaram P.R., Regional CEO, India, at WGC.

Carmakers post wholesales growth as chip shortage eases

Maruti Suzuki reports 5.7% increase in June total wholesales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Major carmakers including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors on Friday reported growth in passenger vehicle wholesales in June as pandemic-led semiconductor shortage woes showed gradual signs of easing.

Other manufacturers, Kia India, MG Motor India and Skoda Auto India also reported robust sales growth.

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) reported a 5.7% increase in total wholesales to 1,55,857 units in June. The company's domestic sales increased 1.28% to 1,32,024 units, from 1,30,348 units in June 2021, it added.

Rival Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) also reported a 14.5% increase in total wholesales at 62,351 units.

Domestic sales grew 21% to 49,001 units last month, HMIL added.

"With the semiconductor situation showing signs of easing out, the sales numbers have again started showing a positive trend," HMIL Director (Sales, Marketing and Service) Tarun Garg said. The newly introduced Hyundai Venue had also received good customer response, he added.

Tata Motors reported domestic passenger vehicle sales growth of 87% at 45,197 units, from 24,110 units in the year-earlier period.

Govt. recasts Banks Board Bureau to FSIB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Centre has transformed the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) into Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) by making some amendments.

Guidelines for selection of general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies have been made part of FSIB, sources said.

The amendments were required as the Delhi High Court in its order last year said the BBB is not a competent body to select the general managers and directors of state-owned general insurers.

IN BRIEF

June power consumption grows 17.2% on heat

NEW DELHI
Power consumption grew by 17.2% y-o-y to 134.13 billion units in June, amid severe heat and spurt in economic activities. Consumption in June 2021 stood at at 114.48 billion units, as per Power Ministry data. Moreover, peak power demand met remained at an all-time high of 209.80 GW (on June 8). PTI

Va Tech Wabag resumes Russia client's operations

CHENNAI
City-based Va Tech Wabag has resumed operations for its client in Russia, said Rajiv Mittal, CMD and Group CEO. "On Thursday, we received a communication from Amur Gas Chemical Complex LLC (AGCC) to resume the services and works under the contract in the region," he said in an interview. "Due to the geopolitical situation, there was a stoppage of work for two-and-a-half months," he added.

SBI's gold loan portfolio crosses ₹1 lakh crore

MUMBAI
State Bank of India's (SBI) gold-loan portfolio has crossed the ₹1 lakh- crore mark for the first time, chairman Dinesh Khara said. "Last week, we crossed ₹1 lakh-crore portfolio in gold loans for the first time. In the first quarter of the current year, we have seen much better growth as compared to what we have achieved in the past. I expect in the current year we should be in a position to grow well in this segment," he said. PTI

Crisil reduces FY23 GDP growth estimate to 7.3%

MUMBAI
Domestic rating agency Crisil on Friday lowered its real GDP growth forecast for India to 7.3% in FY23 from 7.8% estimated earlier. It attributed the downward revision to higher oil prices, slowing of export demand and high inflation. This is in line with the RBI's estimate of 7.2% of real GDP growth for this fiscal year. Crisil said there are a slew of negatives such as high commodity prices as global growth projections get lowered. PTI

Maruti Suzuki to strengthen SUV portfolio, says Srivastava

Automaker targets 50% market share in the segment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) will strengthen its product offerings in the fast-growing Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) segment to increase its market share in the passenger vehicle segment, a top official said.

"Currently, we are lagging others in SUV offerings," Shashank Srivastava, senior executive director, marketing and sales, told reporters.

"We have only two models out of 48 SUVs in the country and we need to strengthen it."

In the non-SUV segment, MSIL enjoys a market share of 67%. The company's entry-level SUV Brezza holds a market share of 22%. In the B-segment, comprising SUVs and MPVs, it has a 20% market share. MSIL gradually plans to increase the market share of the entire SUV portfolio to 50%.

Shashank Srivastava

"Going forward, the focus will be more on the SUV segment with more new models as new segments are emerging with the increase in sales volumes. For instance, the lifestyle SUV market is emerging," he said.

He also said that the country's largest carmaker would be introducing a hybrid vehicle in two variants - mild and strong. The cars would be produced at Toyota Kirloskar Motor's Bidadi plant in Karnataka. The vehicle would be unveiled during the third week of July and mass production would commence by August.

"The upcoming hybrid SUV will be a game changer. We may discontinue the S-Cross model at a later stage. However, we will continue to make small cars," he said.

Unveiling the new Brezza, he said it had received more than 46,000 bookings in nine days.

On chip shortage, he said the situation had improved with MSIL's plants operating at about 93-95% capacity.

Cotton season expected to close with lower stocks

'Sector facing demand, supply curbs'

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA
COIMBATORE

The current cotton season is expected to end on September 30 with 39.27 lakh bales as closing stock.

The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption had estimated the closing stock at almost 41.27 lakh bales at its meeting held in May.

After a meeting on Friday, the Committee said imports were expected to be 15 lakh bales, production 315.43 lakh bales and opening stock 71.84 lakh bales.

Stock availability

With this, the total availability for the season was estimated at 402.27 lakh bales.

On the consumption side, textile mills (non-SSI units) were likely to consume 285 lakh bales, against the Committee's May estimate of 289 lakh bales.

With weak demand for yarn, demand for cotton had declined, industry sources said.

Consumption by SSI (small scale industry) units were likely to be 20 lakh bales, whereas 16 lakh bales were estimated to be the non-textile consumption.

Exports were estimated at 42 lakh bales, the Committee said.

There were both supply and demand side constraints, observed an official in the Ministry of Textiles.

GM not to sell India plant to Great Wall

REUTERS
NEW DELHI/SHANGHAI

General Motors (GM) said on Friday it had called off the sale of a shuttered Indian plant to China's Great Wall Motor after they failed to obtain regulatory approvals, amid a tougher stance by New Delhi towards investments from Beijing.

GM struck a deal in January 2020 to sell the plant to Great Wall, with the Chinese SUV-maker expected to pay up to $300 million as part of a broader plan to invest $1 billion to establish a presence in India's growing car market. The agreement expired on June 30.

"We have been unable to obtain approvals within the time frame of the deal," George Svigos, ED of communications at GM International, told Reuters. The Indian government did not immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

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STEP FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

Hong Kong moving from chaos to order: Xi

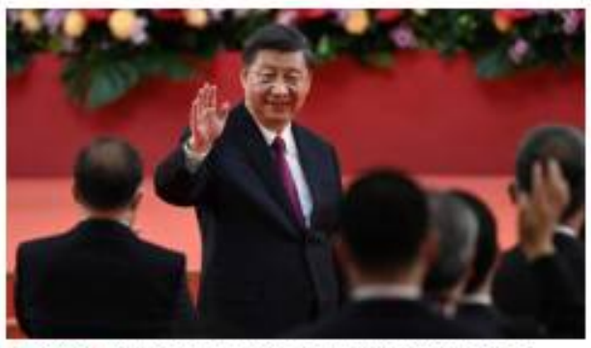
Chinese President hails 'one country, two systems' model, vows support for the city's new leader Lee

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday said Hong Kong was "in a new stage of transitioning from chaos to order" on a rare visit to the Special Administrative Region (SAR).

July 1, 2022 marked the 25th anniversary of the former British colony's handover to China and also saw the swearing-in of new Chief Executive John Lee and his government.

Mr. Xi's visit wasn't certain until earlier this week, given Beijing's concerns over the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong, which has seen around 10,000 deaths this year and reported more than 2,000 cases on Friday. The Chinese mainland, by contrast, follows a strict "zero-COVID" policy and reported only a dozen cases on Friday. The capital Beijing, which reported no cases on Friday, like most Chinese cities requires all residents to undertake a PCR test every three days and continues to maintain strict restrictions on international travel.



In control: Xi Jinping waving at the crowd following the swearing-in of Chief Executive John Lee in Hong Kong. •AFP

Underlining this concern, Mr. Xi chose not to stay in Hong Kong having arrived there on Thursday, instead taking the bullet train back to Shenzhen on the mainland, and returning once again on Friday. The Hong Kong-mainland border, which was closed during his visit, is yet to open more than two years into the pandemic with a daily quota of only a few hundred travellers allowed every day, including with mandatory two weeks' quarantine.

That Mr. Xi chose to leave the mainland for the first time in more than two years since the outbreak in Wuhan - his last visit abroad was in mid-January to Myanmar a few days before the lockdown of Wuhan - underlined the importance of the anniversary in signalling what Mr. Xi called "a new stage of transitioning from chaos to order", apparently referring to the 2019 pro-democracy protests.

'Tough period'

"Having gone through ups and downs, people have learned the hard way that Hong Kong must not be destabilised and cannot afford any chaos," he said.

"Enforcing the central authorities' overall jurisdiction and upholding the SAR's high degree of autonomy are integral aspects of the same policy, and only by ensuring both can we run the SAR truly well," he said, adding that Beijing would fully back the new Hong Kong leader, Mr. Lee and the "one country, two systems" model.

A former policeman, Mr. Lee was a strong proponent of the new national security law that listed sweeping crimes for sedition, and saw the disbanding of most of Hong Kong's pro-democracy opposition parties. Beijing has also overhauled the electoral system and reduced the share of directly elected representatives in the legislature, with the majority now establishment appointees. Critics saw the changes as the most significant alterations to the "one country, two systems" model, under which China also committed to, at the time of the handover, a pathway to universal suffrage.

"Upholding national sovereignty, security and development interests is the paramount principle in the policy. On the basis of this prerequisite, Hong Kong and Macao maintain their capitalist system over the long run and enjoy a high degree of autonomy," he said. Mr. Xi did acknowledge Hong Kong's problems, with the economy reeling from two years of isolation and this year's COVID-19 wave, and "stressed the need to help Hong Kong young people overcome difficulties in education, employment, business start-up, and home-buying".

Mr. Xi earlier this week visited Wuhan on his way to Hong Kong and defended the country's continuing zero-COVID policy. "If China had adopted the 'herd immunity' policy or a hands-off approach, given its large population, the country would have faced unimaginable consequences," he said. "Even if there are some temporary impacts on the economy, we will not put people's lives and health in harm's way, and we must protect the elderly and the children in particular."

At least 21 killed in Russian missile strike in Odesa region

This comes a day after Russia withdrew from Snake Island

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Missile strikes slammed into a residential building and a recreation centre early on Friday, killing at least 21 people and wounding dozens in Ukraine's Odesa region.

Two children were among the dead and six others among the injured, Ukrainian officials said, one day after Russia abandoned positions on the Snake Island in a major setback to the Kremlin's invasion.

The missiles struck the two buildings in the town of Sergiyvka about 80 km south of the Black Sea port of Odesa, which has become a strategic flashpoint in the now more than four-month-old war.

"The death toll in Odesa blast rose to 21," Sergiy Bratchuk, Odesa deputy chief of district, said. A 12-year-old boy was among the dead, he added.

The strikes were launched by aircraft that flew in from the Black Sea, said Odesa military administration spokesman Sergiy Bratchuk.

"The worst-case scenario played out and two strategic aircraft came to the Odesa region," he said in a television interview, adding they had fired "very heavy and very powerful" missiles.

The Kremlin denied targeting civilians: "I would like to remind you of the president's words that the Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

On Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed a "new" chapter of "history" with the EU, after Brussels recently granted Ukraine "candidate status" in Kyiv's push to join the 27-member bloc, even if membership is likely years away.

(With Reuters input)

A residential building damaged by a Russian missile strike in Serhiivka, Odesa region, on Friday. •REUTERS

Australia and France seek thaw in relations

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

Australia and France opened a "new chapter" in their relations on Friday as the new Australian Prime Minister seeks to heal wounds from a secret submarine contract that infuriated France.

President Emmanuel Macron warmly shook hands with Australian premier Anthony Albanese outside the French presidential palace.

"Trust, respect and honesty matters," Mr. Albanese told reporters. "This is how I will approach my relations" with France.

Paris responded with fury when the previous Australian government announced in September that it was cancelling a $62 billion contract for French-made diesel-electric submarines. Instead, Australia had struck a deal with the U.S. and Britain to provide submarines powered with U.S. nuclear technology, which French leaders said was sealed behind their backs.

'Stop interfering in Afghanistan'

At gathering of over 3,000 clerics in Kabul, Taliban supreme leader backs sharia law

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban's reclusive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada called on Friday for the world to stop telling them how to run Afghanistan, insisting sharia law was the only model for a successful Islamic state.

Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August, was addressing a major gathering of religious scholars in the Afghan capital called to rubber-stamp the hardline Islamist group's rule.

More than 3,000 clerics have gathered in Kabul since Thursday for the three-day men-only meeting, and Akhundzada's appearance had been rumoured for days – although media are barred from covering the event.

"Why is the world interfering in our affairs?" he asked in an hour-long speech broadcast by state radio.

"They say 'why don't you do this, why don't you do that?' Why does the world interfere in our work?"

Akhundzada rarely leaves Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace and spiritual heartland, and has almost no digital footprint.

But analysts say the former sharia court judge has an iron grip on the movement and he bears the title "Commander of the Faithful".

His arrival at the meeting hall was greeted with cheers and chants, including "Long live the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", the Taliban's name for the country.

No women are attending the clerics' meeting, but a Taliban source said this week that thorny issues such as girls' education would be discussed. Akhundzada did not mention the subject in his speech, which was confined largely to telling the faithful to strictly observe Islamic principles in life and governance.

Thousands rally after 9 killed in Sudan protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO

Thousands took to the streets Friday in Sudan's capital, a day after nine people were killed in demonstrations against the country's ruling generals.

The U.S. and others in the international community condemned the violence in this East African nation, which has been rocked by near-weekly protests since an October 25 coup upended its fragile transition to democracy.

Sudanese military authorities have met the protests with a deadly crackdown, which has so far killed 113 people, including 18 children.

In and near Khartoum, large funeral marches took place for some of those killed the day before, while others gathered after Friday prayers at mosques in the country's capital.

Online, photographs of the dead were posted, in some cases in an effort to identify them.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 5th Test, day 2, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3 p.m.
Wimbledon: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m. onwards, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards; SS Select 2 SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10.30 p.m.
Formula One: British GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Formula E: Marrakesh EPrix, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st T20I, FanCode, 11 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Krunal Pandya to play for Warwickshire

BIRMINGHAM
India all-rounder Krunal Pandya will play for English county Warwickshire in the Royal London Cup one-day championship from August 2-23. Krunal, elder brother of star all-rounder Hardik Pandya, has played in 19 T20Is, five ODIs and 76 List A matches scoring 2,231 runs and taking 89 wickets. PTI

Spurs complete £60m signing of Richarlison

LONDON
Tottenham Hotspurs on Friday completed the signing of Brazil international Richarlison from Everton on a five-year deal for a fee that could reportedly rise to £60 million. Spurs will pay an initial £50 million fee with a further £10 million in performance-related bonuses. AFP

Lyon, Head oversee three-day demolition of Sri Lanka

Australia erases sour memories of 2016; Mathews out with Covid

AUSTRALIA IN SL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Spinner Nathan Lyon starred with a match haul of nine wickets as Australia wrapped up the opening Test on Friday with a crushing victory over Sri Lanka before lunch on the third day.

The hosts were bundled out for 113 in their second innings allowing the Australians to seal a 10-wicket victory in their first over back at the crease.

Smiles all around: Lyon, second right, celebrates the dismissal of Sri Lanka captain Karunaratne. •AFP

Huge result

Lyon, whose five-for helped bowl out Sri Lanka for 212 in the first innings, and fellow spinner Travis Head took four wickets each to send the hosts packing before the morning was over.

It was a huge victory for Australia, who suffered a 3-0 whitewash in Sri Lanka on its last tour in 2016.

Opener Usman Khawaja (71) and Cameron Green (77) stood out in Australia's first innings effort of 321. Green put on crucial partnerships with Khawaja and then wicketkeeper-batsman Alex Carey, who made 45, to handle the spinners with aplomb.

Sri Lanka suffered a blow before play began when Angelo Mathews was ruled out due to Covid-19, with Oshada Fernando named his replacement.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne started strong, smashing four boundaries in the 17-run first over of the innings off Mitchell Starc. But the tables soon turned when Lyon and fellow spinner Mitchell Swepson took charge.

Wickets kept tumbling with Sri Lanka's batsmen desperately trying to hit their way out of trouble.

First scalp

Head struck twice in his first over to claim Dinesh Chandimal – his first Test scalp – and Dhananjaya de Silva.

Opener David Warner brought an easy finish to formalities, hitting a four and a six off Ramesh Mendis to bring up the win in four balls. The second and final Test begins on July 8 at the same venue.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka – 1st innings: 212.
Australia – 1st innings: Usman Khawaja c Nissanka b Vandersay 71, David Warner lbw b R. Mendis 25, Marnus Labuschagne c A. Fernando b R. Mendis 13, Steve Smith run out 6, Travis Head c & b de Silva 6, Cameroon Green lbw b R. Mendis 77, Alex Carey c Chandimal b R. Mendis 45, Mitchell Starc c & b Vandersay 10, Pat Cummins b A. Fernando 26, Nathan Lyon (not out) 15, Mitchell Swepson b Fernando 1; Extras (b-20, lb-3, nb-1, w-2): 26; Total (in 70.5 overs): 321.

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-75, 3-83, 4-100, 5-157, 6-241, 7-278, 8-278, 9-319.

Sri Lanka bowling: A. Fernando 8.5-1-37-2, de Silva 5-0-8-1, Embuldeniya 15-0-73-0, R. Mendis 32-0-112-4, Vandersay 10-0-68-2.

Sri Lanka – 2nd innings: Pathum Nissanka lbw b Swepson 14, Dimuth Karunaratne c Carey b Lyon 23, Kushal Mendis c Swepson b Lyon 8, Oshada Fernando c Smith b Swepson 12, Dhananjaya de Silva lbw b Head 11, Dinesh Chandimal b Head 13, Niroshan Dickwella c Labuschagne b Lyon 3, Ramesh Mendis c Khawaja b Lyon 0, Jeffrey Vandersay b Head 8, Lasith Embuldeniya lbw b Head 0, Asitha Fernando (not out) 5; Extras (b-10, lb-5, nb-1): 16; Total (in 22.5 overs): 113.

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-39, 3-59, 4-63, 5-95, 6-96, 7-97, 8-108, 9-108.

Australia bowling: Starc 2-0-23-0, Lyon 11-1-31-4, Swepson 7-0-34-2, Head 2.5-0-10-4.

Australia – 2nd innings: David Warner (not out) 10, Usman Khawaja (not out) 0; Total (for no loss in 0.4 overs): 10.

Sri Lanka bowling: R. Mendis 0.4-0-10-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Green; *Australia won by 10 wickets to lead two-match series 1-0.*

Amreli expected to score in Juvenile Sprinters' Million

BENGALURU: Amreli, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Juvenile Sprinters' Million (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Saturday (July 2).
False rails (width about 9.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Ozark (1) T.S. Jodha 61.5, 2. Baroness (4) Rajesh K 61, 3. Apollo Light (3) S. Saqlain 60.5, 4. Don's Den (5) G. Vivek 60, 5. Mega Success (10) Ikram A 60, 6. The Omega man (2) Saddam H 59.5, 7. Jersey Legend (9) Salman K 58.5, 8. Beldona (8) Arvind K 58, 9. Zehnaseeb (6) Darshan 56.5 and 10. Star Citizen (7) Kirtish B 54.5.
1. DON'S DEN, 2. BELDONA, 3. OZARK

2 FANTABULOUS KING PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Dedicated Boy (3) Kiran N 56, 2. Stormy Ocean (8) Ajinkya 56, 3. Urban Borbon (1) N.S. Parmar 56, 4. Impiana (10) Vivek 54.5, 5. Inyouwebelieve (6) Trevor 54.5, 6. Peridot (7) Likith 54.5, 7. Silver Canyon (11) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Solid Power (9) Darshan 54.5, 9. Stormwatch (12) Hindu S 54.5, 10. Sweet Talk (5) K. Nazil 54.5, 11. The Sound Of Music (2) Arvind K 54.5 and 12. Tripitaka (4) P.S. Chouhan 54.5.
1. INYOUWEBELIEVE, 2. STORMY OCEAN, 3. TRIPITAKA

3 NAWAB M ARSHAD ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 80 & above, 3-30: 1. Bellator (3) Trevor 61, 2. Taimur (1) Bhawani S 57.5, 3. Truly Epic (6) Sandesh 57.5, 4. Automatic (5) P.S. Chouhan 57, 5. Sea Of Cortez (2) P.P. Dhebe 50 and 6. The Bawaji (4) N.S. Parmar 50.
1. BELLATOR, 2. TAIMUR

4 JUVENILE SPRINTERS' MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Ballerina (2) Suraj 57, 2. O Hansini (5) Trevor 57, 3. Ayr (3) N.S. Parmar 55.5, 4. Kay Star (6) Ashhad A 55.5, 5. Amreli (4) Sandesh 54 and 6. Artemis Ignacia (1) Akshay K 54.
1. AMRELI, 2. O HANSINI

5 AKHAL-TEKE PLATE (2,000m), rated 40 to 65, 4-30: 1. Green Channel (4) J.H. Arul 61.5, 2. Pissarro (6) Trevor 61.5, 3. Silvarius (8) Suraj 61, 4. Siege Perilous (3) Akshay K 58.5, 5. Peluche (7) T.S. Jodha 57.5, 6. Starry Wind (1) Shreyas S 55.5, 7. Success (2) Hindu S 51.5 and 8. Towering Presence (5) P.P. Dhebe 51.5.
1. PISSARRO, 2. SUCCESS, SILVARIUS

6 LADY GIBRALTAR PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Polished Girl (2) Suraj 62, 2. Yukan (5) Srinath 60.5, 3. La Reina (4) Sandesh 59, 4. Nikolina (8) Akshay K 58.5, 5. Wild Emperor (7) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 6. Singhsaab (1) Kirtish B 56, 7. Twilight Fame (3) Rajesh K 54 and 8. Impeccable (6) Vinod Shinde 53.
1. POLISHED GIRL, 2. NIKOLINA, 3. YUKAN

7 SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-30: 1. Debonair (9) Md. Aliyar 62.5, 2. Elite Agent (4) Rajesh K 62.5, 3. Emeraldo (–) (–) 62.5, 4. Port Of Beauty (2) S. Shareef 62, 5. Red Lucifer (6) Salman K 61.5, 6. Altair (7) Arvind K 61, 7. The Intruder (5) Chetan K 60.5, 8. Cinco De Mayo (1) Mark 60, 9. Comeonson (3) S. Saqlain 58.5 and 10. Speaking Of Skies (8) Rayan 57.
1. RED LUCIFER, 2. PORT OF BEAUTY, 3. ALTAIR
Day's best: **AMRELI**
Double: **BELLATOR – POLISHED GIRL**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

TAI welcomes decision to re-look levying GST on horse racing

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
PUNE

The Turf Authorities of India (TAI), which conducts horse racing in India, has welcomed the GST Council's decision to allow the group of ministers (GoM) to re-examine the issues related to levying GST on horse racing.

Zavaray S. Poonawalla, chairman of GST reform cell of TAI, in a statement said "We are happy to note that the GST Council has deferred its decision on imposing GST on the value of bets placed @28%. We look forward to the GoM considering how horse racing is different from other gaming. This gives us a window of 15 days to present to the GoM that unlike gaming for commercial gain, which is undertaken by other service providers, all race clubs in India are set up as not-for-profit clubs.

"The licensed horse race clubs have been in existence for over 200 years in India and in the span of their operations of over two centuries, the tax imposed on betting has been on the commission made by the race courses and not on the value of bets.

Zavaray Poonawalla. •B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

"The proposed GST would be against this centuries-old norm, international norms and even the state's betting and entertainment tax, which the GST regime subsumed. All over the world, payouts/prize money on horse racing is not taxed. This should definitely be applicable to the horse racing industry in India too."

The TAI further stated that "Unlike commercial gaming, all revenue made by the clubs is completely ploughed back into the welfare measures like supporting jockeys, horses, equestrian breeding and training, besides providing employment to thousands of people.

"The GoM needs to be cognizant of the fact that horse racing and equestrian breeding will suffer irreversible damage, if the proposed GST on value of bets is imposed. Besides the loss of revenue to the Government of India, it would have a cascading effect on India's environment, considering that the turf clubs provide much needed green spaces in the crowded cities.

The sport generates lakhs of jobs in the agriculture sector, pharmaceutical industry, and labour industry etc. No value can be attributed to the above in terms of money and the GoM needs to consider the same while taking its decision, which should not be made with only a monetary outlook."

Sindhu and Prannoy bow out

MALAYSIA OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu crashed out in the women's singles quarterfinals of the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton losing to Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei here on Friday.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, lost 21-13, 15-21, 13-21 to second seed Tai Tzu, silver medallist at the Tokyo Olympics.

Despite a slow start, Sindhu won the first game. But, Tai fought back and took control of proceedings.

Tai thus extended her domination over the Indian to 16-5 on head-to-head record. Sindhu has now lost six matches on the trot against Tai.

The Indian challenge ended as H.S. Prannoy also made a quarterfinal exit, losing to seventh-seeded Jonatan Christie of Indonesia 18-21, 16-21.

Pant's blistering ton, Jadeja's solid knock help India fight back

Their 222-run partnership for the sixth wicket takes the visitors to 338 for seven from a precarious 98 for five on day one; Anderson, Potts shine for England

INDIA IN ENG

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BIRMINGHAM

Rishabh Pant was combative and Ravindra Jadeja composed in leading India's recovery from 98 for five to 338 for seven against England on the first day of the series-deciding Test at Edgbaston on Friday.

Pant made 146 off 111 balls in a fabulous 222-run sixth-wicket stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who was not out on 83 at stumps. Pant's brutal counterattack featured 19 fours and four sixes and ended when he was deceived by Joe Root's off-spin and gave Zak Crawley his third catch in the slips.

Different strokes: Pant was aggression personified during his brilliant century, while Jadeja played perfect foil with a controlled unbeaten 83. •GETTY IMAGES

Receiving end

Ben Stokes' men were on the receiving end of a belligerent Pant and Jadeja, who played the anchor role. Their brilliant stand of 222 came off 239 balls.

England took full advantage of winning the toss and opting to bowl in overcast conditions. James Anderson and Matthew Potts troubled the India's top order and reduced the visitors to 98 for five midway through the second session.

Pant resisted and reached his half-century at the stroke of tea off 51 balls. He raised his third Test hundred against England off a mere 89 balls.

Hardly bothered

Jadeja proved a perfect foil to Pant's aggression. Pant took charge from the outset and was hardly bothered by the bounce of Potts, and was quick to pounce on full-pitched deliveries by Anderson and Broad.

Leach was also not spared as Pant used his feet well against the spinner, who finished the day conceding 71 runs off nine overs without success.

This fifth Test was postponed a year ago when India, up 2-1 in the series, was stricken by a coronavirus outbreak. The virus hit the team again on the eve of this match when captain Rohit Sharma was ruled out and Jasprit Bumrah became the first fast bowler since Kapil Dev to lead the side as interim skipper.

Opening batters Shubman Gill (17) and Cheteshwar Pujara (13) were worn down by the bowlers' nagging line and length, and Potts extracted lots of bounce.

Gill hit two boundaries in a Broad over, but succumbed to Anderson's brilliance when he edged to second slip.

Broad came close to his 550th Test wicket but Pujara, who replaced Rohit, successfully overturned a caught behind ruling off the DRS. However, Pujara didn't last long against Anderson's relentless seam and swing as the fast bowler struck in his second spell when Crawley grabbed a straightforward catch in the slip cordon.

Crawley should have had his third catch, but couldn't hold onto a sharp one-handed chance off Hanuma Vihari, which could have earned Potts his first wicket.

India lost three more wickets inside six overs after rain delayed post-lunch play for 90 minutes.

Vihari was trapped leg before by Potts on 20.

Virat Kohli, on 11, was indecisive against Potts and left the ball which cannoned onto his stumps after hitting the toe end of the bat.

Anderson had Shreyas Iyer out for 15 down the leg-side off a short delivery.

Stokes got an edge off Shardul Thakur just before stumps.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Shubman Gill c Crawley b Anderson 17 *(24b, 4x4)*, Cheteshwar Pujara c Crawley b Anderson 13 *(46b, 2x4)*, Hanuma Vihari lbw b Potts 20 *(53b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli b Potts 11 *(19b, 2x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Crawley b Root 146 *(111b, 19x4, 4x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Billings b Anderson 15 *(11b, 3x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (batting) 83 *(163b, 10x4)*; Shardul Thakur c Billings b Stokes 1 *(12b)*, Mohammed Shami (batting) 0 *(11b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-16, nb-12): 32; Total (for seven wkts. in 73 overs): 338.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Gill, 6.2 overs), 2-46 (Pujara, 17.6), 3-64 (Vihari, 22.2), 4-71 (Kohli, 24.2), 5-98 (Shreyas, 27.5), 6-320 (Pant, 66.2), 7-323 (Shardul, 67.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 19-4-52-3, Broad 15-2-53-0, Potts 17-1-85-2, Leach 9-0-71-0, Stokes 10-0-34-1, Root 3-0-23-1.

Toss: England.

England squads for India series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Veteran Lancashire seamer Richard Gleeson earned his maiden England call-up for the three-match T20I series against India starting on July 7 in Southampton.

The squads:

T20Is: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Richard Gleeson, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Tymal Mills, Matthew Parkinson, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, and David Willey.

ODIs: Buttler (Capt.), Moeen, Jonny Bairstow, Brook, Brydon Carse, Curran, Livingstone, Craig Overton, Parkinson, Joe Root, Roy, Salt, Ben Stokes, Topley, and Willey.

The schedule:

T20Is: July 7, Southampton (10.30 p.m.).
July 9, Edgbaston (7 p.m.).
July 10, Trent Bridge (7 p.m.).
ODIs: July 12, The Oval (5.30 p.m.).
July 14, Lord's (5.30 p.m.).
July 17, Old Trafford (3.30 p.m.) *(all times IST)*.

Deepti does the star turn as Women in Blue draw first blood

All-rounder scalps three and also takes the team home; Renuka lends support with the ball; Harmanpreet anchors chase

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PALLEKELE

Deepti Sharma shone with the bat after her exploits with the ball, coming to India's rescue in a tricky chase, to set up a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first ODI here on Friday.

In the company of Pooja Vastrakar (21 not out), Deepti (22 not out) guided India home in 38 overs after being set an easy target of 172, in Harmanpreet Kaur's first match as ODI captain.

Cruising at 123 for three, India made heavy weather of what seemed a comfortable run-chase after Harmanpreet departed for a well-made 44, slipping to 138 for six.

India bowled out Sri Lanka for 171 in 48.2 overs, and then chased down the target with 12 overs to spare.

Off-spinner Deepti and medium-pacer Renuka Singh were the wreckers-in-chief, finishing with impressive figures of three for 25 and three for 29 respectively.

Big breakthrough: Renuka got rid of Athapaththu to set the tone for India. •TWITTER/@BCCIWOMEN

Renuka got the first breakthrough when she removed skipper Chamari Athapaththu. It was a huge wicket for India, and straightaway put the hosts on the back-foot. As wickets tumbled at one end, Nilakshi de Silva held fort at the other until she was trapped in front for a 63-ball 43. The Indians also got off to a poor start, losing Smriti Mandhana (4) as early as the second over. Yastika Bhatia too did not last long, leaving India at 17 for two in the fourth over.

Harmanpreet then played the role of anchor allowing Shafali Verma to blaze her way to 35 off 40 deliveries. Harleen Deol chipped in with 34 off 40 balls, before the duo of Deepti and Pooja took the visitors home.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA

Hasini Perera lbw b Deepti 37 *(54b, 5x4)*, Chamari Athapaththu c Yastika b Renuka 2 *(8b)*, Hansima Karunaratne c Pooja b Deepti 0 *(11b)*, Harshitha Samarawickrama lbw b Pooja 28 *(54b, 3x4)*, Kavisha Dilhari c Shafali b Harmanpreet 0 *(2b)*, Nilakshi de Silva lbw b Renuka 43 *(63b, 4x4)*, Anushka Sanjeewani c Yastika b Rajeshwari 18 *(48b)*, Oshadi Ranasinghe b Renuka 8 *(14b, 1x4)*, Rashmi Silva b Deepti 7 *(21b)*, Inoka Ranaweera c Yastika b Pooja 12 *(15b, 2x4)*, Achini Kulasuriya (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-3, w-9): 16; Total (in 48.2 overs): 171.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Athapaththu, 2.5 overs), 2-29 (Hansima, 6.6), 3-63 (Hasini, 17.5), 4-65 (Kavisha, 18.5), 5-84 (Harshitha, 22.5), 6-131 (Anushka, 37.6), 7-144 (Nilakshi, 41.5), 8-152 (Oshadi, 43.5), 9-171 (Inoka, 47.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Renuka 6-0-29-3, Meghna 8-0-23-0, Deepti 8.2-1-25-3, Rajeshwari 9-0-33-1, Harmanpreet 7-1-13-1, Pooja 5-0-26-2, Harleen 3-0-11-0, Shafali 2-0-4-0.

INDIA

Shafali Verma c Anushka b Inoka 35 *(40b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Smriti Mandhana b Oshadi 4 *(7b, 1x4)*, Yastika Bhatia b Oshadi 1 *(8b)*, Harmanpreet Kaur lbw b Inoka 44 *(63b, 3x4)*, Harleen Deol lbw b Inoka 34 *(40b, 2x4)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 22 *(47b)*, Richa Ghosh c Anushka b Inoka 6 *(11b)*, Pooja Vastrakar (not out) 21 *(19b, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-6): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 38 overs): 176.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Smriti, 1.3), 2-17 (Yastika, 3.6), 3-61 (Shafali, 15.2), 4-123 (Harmanpreet, 25.2), 5-130 (Harleen, 27.3), 6-138 (Richa, 29.6).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Achini 6-0-34-0, Oshadi 8-1-34-2, Inoka 10-0-39-4, Kavisha 7-0-33-0, Rashmi 6-0-30-0, Athapaththu 1-0-4-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka.
Player-of-the-Match: Deepti.
India won by four wickets with 12 overs remaining to lead three-match series 1-0.
Second ODI: July 4, Pallekele.

Harmanpreet is cool and calm: Deepti

P. K. AJITH KUMAR

On Friday at Pallekele, Deepti Sharma saw through the chase for the Women in Blue with a responsible knock coming in at number six against Sri Lanka in the opening ODI.

Her unbeaten 22 helped her side tide over the loss of three wickets in the middle-order in quick succession. Earlier, she had taken three for 25 with her off-spin.

She said she had worked on her batting ahead of the tour. "I developed some shots," she said. "My role is to finish the job for the team. I just keep that in my mind."

The match was India's first ODI after Harmanpreet Kaur took over as captain from Mithali Raj. "She is calm and cool as a captain, which is good (for the team)," Deepti said. "We enjoyed playing under her, and she enjoyed her captaincy too."

Lampaert wins Stage 1

Lampaert. •AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COPENHAGEN

Belgian Yves Lampaert won the first stage of the Tour de France on Friday, gate-crashing the opening day individual time-trial as crowds defied the rain along the 13.2km route in downtown Copenhagen.

Quick-Step rider Lampaert suffered less from the rain with his later start than the pre-race favourites, finishing five seconds ahead of compatriot Wout van Aert, with defending champion Tadej Pogacar third best seven seconds off the pace.

"I was hoping for a top 10, but not this," 2021 Belgian time-trial champion Lampaert said. "I beat the big guys."

I approach every event with a free mind, says Neeraj Chopra

Olympic champion concerned only about giving his best

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

More than a month ago, Neeraj Chopra had admitted to this correspondent that the pressure of being an Olympic champion would be known only when he began competing. Given his performance at the three events since then, that question seems to have been answered.

In the limelight: Neeraj continues to rise and rise as his Stockholm Diamond League performance showed.

Marked progress

He has set a new National record each time, going closer to the 90m mark with every outing and managing 89.94m at the Diamond League in Stockholm on Thursday, his first DL event since 2018. Two of the three marks came on his first attempts while one came on his second.

"It's a good feeling to get good results. The first throw was very good and it looked very close to 90m, fell just 6cm short, but I am happy with my performance," Neeraj said after the Stockholm meet.

His lead lasted only a few minutes with reigning World champion Anderson Peters managing a 90.31m on his third attempt and while Neeraj admitted it gave him an extra push, he isn't bothered too much.

"When Anderson crossed 90m, I wanted to do it too but it doesn't happen automatically. Everything has to be perfect for such a long throw. Plus, the body also gets tired when we put full effort into every throw," he insisted.

Up next is the World Championships in Oregon, USA, and Neeraj, like always, doesn't commit to anything.

"I am going in with a free mind with 100% in training and competition, there is no pressure of the past. For the World Championships also, I can only say that there is no pressure at the moment," he said.

Anju Bobby George remains India's lone World Championships medallist till date but Neeraj, despite the expectations, is not thinking about it. "I keep saying every competition is very different every day. Just give it your all," he signed off.

Jabeur cruises into the fourth round

Djokovic demolishes Serbian compatriot Kecmanovic; Sakkari shocked

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

World No. 2 Ons Jabeur beat French teenager Diane Parry 6-2, 6-3 on Friday to cruise through to the fourth round at Wimbledon.

The Tunisian had too much for the 19-year-old in their clash on Centre Court, breaking her five times and hitting 22 winners.

Greek fifth seed Maria Sakkari was knocked out, losing in straight sets to German World No. 103 Tatjana Maria.

The 34-year-old Maria, who only returned to the tour from maternity leave less than a year ago, won 6-3, 7-5 to reach the last 16 of a Slam for the first time.

She will face former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko for a place in the quarterfinals.

Three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic reached the fourth round for the 14th time, with a straight-sets demolition of Serbian compatriot Miomir Kecmanovic.

Djokovic, looking to pull level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time Wimbledon champion, triumphed 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

Friday's win was the 330th of Djokovic's Grand Slam career.

"So far, so good," said the 35-year-old top seed, who has now reached the last 16 of a major for the 55th time.

"I expect high standards from myself. You always want to raise the level and things are shaping up well."

Waiting in the fourth round will be Dutch wild card Tim van Rijthoven.

A first: Maria, who only returned to the tour from maternity leave less than a year ago, reached the last 16 of a Slam for the first time. •AFP

van Rijthoven, who has taken a slow and agonising road to the last 16 at Wimbledon – which has included the best part of three years lost to injury – posted a straight-sets win over Nikoloz Basilashvili.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Third round: Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt 25-Kecmanovic (Srb) 6-0, 6-3, 6-4; van Rijthoven (Ned) bt 22-Basilashvili (Geo) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; 10-Sinner (Ita) bt 20-Isner (USA) 6-4, 7-6(4), 6-3; 5-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 32-Otte (Ger) 6-3, 6-1, 6-2; 9-Norrie (GBr) bt Johnson (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.

Women: Bouzkova (Cze) bt 28-Riske-Amritraj (USA) 6-2, 6-3; 24-Mertens (Bel) bt 15-Kerber (Ger) 6-4, 7-5; 3-Jabeur (Tun) bt Parry (Fra) 6-2, 6-3; Maria (Ger) bt 5-Sakkari (Gre) 6-3, 7-5; 12-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Begu (Rou) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Mixed doubles (first round): 6-Sania (Ind) & Pavic (Cro) bt Dzalamidze (Geo) & Hernandez (Esp) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(3).

Fallen seeds

- *Men:* 20-Isner, 22-Basilashvili; 25-Kecmanovic
- *Women:* 5-Sakkari; 15-Kerber; 28-Riske-Amritraj

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Paddlers Abhinav and Deshna claim u-17 titles

Abhinav K. Murthy and Deshna M. Vanshika emerged the men's and women's under-17 singles winners respectively at the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament. While Abhinav defeated Varun B. Kashyap 11-7, 13-11, 11-8, 11-6, Deshna beat Sahana M. Murthy 11-13, 11-7, 11-7, 8-11, 11-5, 11-4.

Amrit Gope and Faisal Ali join Bengaluru FC

Bengaluru FC, on Friday, announced the signings of youngsters Amrit Gope and Faisal Ali, on two and three-year deals respectively. Gope, who most recently turned out for TRAU FC, has put pen to paper on a contract that will run until 2023-24. Faisal, a former Mohammedan Sporting player, is set to be at the club until the end of the 2024-25 campaign.

Swapnil hits 173 as Chintamani SA takes lead

Swapnil Shivaji Yelave top-scored with 173 as Chintamani SA secured the first-innings lead against Modern CC in a drawn KSCA (Group I) first division league encounter.

The scores: Modern CC 233 in 65.3 overs (Jeswanth Acharya 51, Milind Ramesh 59, Ronak 29, Dushyanth Venkat 5/85) drew with Chintamani SA 295/6 in 79.4 overs (Swapnil Shivaji Yelave 173, Faizaan Sidiq 52, Abdul Majid 33, Dheeraj J. Gowda 3/77).

Rajajinagar Cricketers 351 in 87.2 overs (Nihal Ullal 128, Nitin Bhille 55, K. Rohit 43, Dhuri 49, S.M. Shamanth 39, S. Punith 5/70) drew with Sir Syed Cricketers 181 in 60.4 overs (S.J. Nikin Jose 51, A. Rohan Patil 47, Luvnith Sisodia 51, Melu Kranthi Kumar 4/35).

Mount Joy CC 274 in 84.5 overs (Ayush Shetty 32, Akshan Rao 39, Aditya Somanna 68, Sagar Solanki 54, Sharan Gouda 25, Muthahir 34, Lochan Appanna 4/46, B.M. Shreyas 3/15) drew with Cambridge CC 143 in 42 overs (L. Saishiv Narayan 57, Muthanna Chandrashekhar Nayak 30, A. Mohit Kumar 7/32).

Swastic Union CC (2) 394/9 in 90 overs (Md. Taha 27, S.S. Sujay 157 n.o., C.A. Karthik 100, Pranav Bhatia 4/134) drew with BUCC (1) 372 in 76.5 overs (Rohan Kadam 30, Liyan Khan 61, Abhinav Manohar 125, Samarth Srinivas 72, Pranav Bhatia 39, Gaurav Dhiman 5/48).

Social Cricketers 195 in 69.1 overs (Gautham Dileep 32, M. Shashank Reddy 26, D. Avinash 31, J. Suchith 3/46, Santokh Singh 4/30) drew with Vultures CC 318 in 77 overs (K.L. Shrijith 53, Pavan Deshpande 42, R. Smaran 79, J. Suchith 60, Prithviraj 3/80).

FUCC (1) 123 in 31.2 overs (Mithun Bhat 46, K.S. Devaiah 5/37) & 163/3 in 31 overs (G.S. Chiranjeevi 28, Lochan S.Gowda 50, B.U. Shivakumar 69 n.o.) drew with Swastic Union CC (1) 364 in 80.3 overs (R. Samarth 84, Siddharth 149, Shishir Bhavane 77, A.C. Rohith Kumar 3/78, B.U. Shivakumar 4/34).

Abhirami 'tricks as Legends De Sporting wins big

Abhirami Vadivel scored a hat-trick as Legends De Sporting FC blanked Wings Baldwin Int.FC 5-0 in the KSFA Women's B-division league, here on Friday.

The result: Legends De Sporting FC 5 (Abhirami Vadivel 5, 26, 28, Sandhiya 9, D. Swetha 15) bt Wings Baldwin Int.FC 0.

Pradyumna stars in RIT's triumph

Pradyumna top-scored with 20 points as Ramaiah Institute of Technology beat RVCE 72-61 to win the State-level inter-collegiate basketball championship conducted by St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) recently.

The result: Ramaiah 72 (Pradyumna 20, Rohan 15, Akshan 10) bt RVCE 61 (Nakul 18, Vikas 16).

Suresh Jois Chandrashekar is the new KGA captain

Suresh Jois Chandrashekar was elected the captain of the Karnataka Golf Association at the 2022-23 elections held here recently.

Other committee members: Roopa Pratap, Hari R.Achanta, Ranjan Biswas, Sanjay G.Mathias, M.R. Vijay, Peter Prem, Jyoti Swarup, M.R. Kamble.

Teen talent: Abhinav and Deshna with their reward. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yuki-Saketh pair in semis

SPORTS BUREAU

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni beat Luca Margaroli and Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-7(8), 6-2, [10-8] to reach the semifinals of the €45,730 Challenger tennis in Malaga, Spain.

Other results: $53,120 Challenger, Cali, Colombia: Quarterfinals: Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Ignacio Carou (Uru) & Facundo Mena (Arg) 7-5, 4-2 (retd). **$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Quarterfinals:** Boris Butulija (Srb) & Niki Poonacha bt Wang Chukang (Chn) & Faris Zakaryia (Egy) 6-3, 3-6, [10-7]. **Women: Singles (quarterfinals):** Jennifer Luikham bt Chiara Girelli (Ita) 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-0.

$100,000 ITF women, Charleston, USA: Singles (first round): Victoria Duval (USA) bt Riya Bhatia 6-2, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF women, Los Angeles: Quarterfinals: Sofia Da Cruz Mendonca & Eduarda Piai (Bra) bt Brandy Walker (USA) & Prathyusha Rachapudi 6-2, 7-6(2).

Jamuna, Sonia in last four

SPORTS BUREAU

Jamuna Boro and Sonia Lather posted wins to enter the semifinals of the Elorda Cup boxing in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Friday. Jamuna beat Aishagul Yeleubayeva of Kazakhstan 5-0 in women's 54kg quarterfinals while Sonia defeated Zhuldyz Shayakhmetova 5-0 in 57kg .

Important results (Indians unless specified): Quarterfinals: Men: 54kg: Ananta Chopade bt Altynbek Nursultan (Kaz) 5-0; **57kg:** Sachin Siwach bt Lyu Ping (Chn) RSC-1; **67kg:** Aditya Pratap Yadav lost to Baatarsukh Chinzorig (Mgl) 5-0. **Women: 52kg:** Jyoti Gulia bt Zhansaya Rakhymberdi (Kaz) 4-1; **54kg:** Jamuna Boro bt Aishagul Yeleubayeva (Kaz) 5-0, Sakshi Choudhary bt Muzdiman Balausa (Kaz) 5-0; **57kg:** Sonia Lather bt Shayakhmetova (Kaz) 5-0.

AFI to conduct trial for Aldrin on July 4

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Perhaps realising that it had not been fair to Jeswin Aldrin, who was not cleared on Thursday for this month's World Championships despite achieving the automatic qualification standard in April, the Athletics Federation of India has now asked the long jumper to attend a trial at the NIS Patiala on July 4.

"Your performance should be close to 8.10m only then will you be considered for selection for the World Championships (in Oregon, USA, from July 15)," says a letter from the chief national coach Radhakrishnan Nair to Aldrin.

A similar letter has gone to Aishwarya Mishra. "It will be on the same day, same time. And the target is around the qualifying time (51.35s) set by World Athletics...thereabouts," Adille Sumariwalla told *The Hindu* on Friday night.

NADA presence

While including Aishwarya, who had clocked a stunning 51.18s at the Federation Cup in Malappuram in early April, the AFI had said on Thursday that the quarter-miler would have to attend a trial where National Anti-Doping Agency officials would also be present.

Aldrin had jumped 8.26m (also a wind-assisted 8.37m) while winning the Federation Cup gold beating National record holder M. Sreeshankar.

If Aldrin qualifies, for the first time three male Indian long jumpers will be at the Worlds, the others being Sreeshankar and Muhammed Anees.

Jeswin Aldrin. • FILE PHOTO

IAU 24 Hour meet to kick off today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) 24 Hour Asia and Oceania Championship will be held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. This is the first time the event is being conducted in India and the first since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.

The event, comprising 37 elite runners, will see participation from four Asia-Oceania countries (India, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Lebanon) and will be flagged off at 9 a.m. on Saturday and will end 24 hours later.

The competition is a test of who runs the most in a 24-hour window, in the present case on an outdoor 400m track. There will be a change in the direction of running once every four hours and the minimum time an athlete has to spend on the track is 21 hours.

Runners from Poland and the United Kingdom have been invited to the competition and they will run in the open category.

Additionally, there will be 12 hours open category run and 12 hours relay run (six runners running for two hours each).

India has fielded a team of 12 ultrarunners led by Amar Singh Devanda.

Duplantis rewrites pole vault mark

DIAMOND LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

Armand Duplantis warmed up for next month's World Championships in perfect style at Stockholm's Diamond League meet on Thursday, delighting home fans by setting an outdoor pole vault record.

In yet another dominant display in the final major meet before the July 15-24 World championships in Eugene, USA, Duplantis had the competition wrapped up after his third effort at 5.83m.

The US-born vaulter then nailed 5.93 and 6.03 before clearing 6.16m on his second attempt, the best-ever performance outdoors that bettered by 1cm his previous outdoor best set in Rome in September 2020.

Duplantis...a new high. • REUTERS

With little time to fine-tune preparations ahead of the Worlds, Marcell Jacobs – a shock gold winner at the Tokyo Olympics last year – pulled out of the 100m in another blow to his injury-hit season.

The results (winners):

Men: 100m: Akani Simbine (RSA) 10.02s; **800m:** Slimane Moula (Alg) 1:44.60s; **3000m:** Domnic Lokinyomo Lobalu (ART) 7:29.48s; **Discus:** Kristjan Ceh (Slo) 70.02m; **Pole vault:** Armand Duplantis (Swe) 6.16m **(WR)**; **400m hurdles:** Alison Dos Santos (Bra) 46.80s.

Women: 100m hurdles: Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (Pur) 12.46s; **200m:** Dina Asher-Smith (GBR) 22.37s; **400m hurdles:** Femke Bol (Ned) 52.27s; **800m:** Mary Moraa (Ken) 1:57.68s; **3000m steeplechase:** Daisy Jepkemei (Kaz) 9:15.77s; **High jump:** Eleanor Patterson (Aus) 1.96m; Long jump: 1 Lorraine Ugen (GBR) 6.81m.